

SB 424 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Wagner, Sen. Knopp

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 02/09/23

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Anderson, Dembrow, Frederick, Gelser Blouin, President Wagner, Robinson, Weber

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Ellen O'Brien, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 1/26, 2/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits post-secondary institutions of education from withholding transcripts from or otherwise penalizing students with outstanding account balances. Permits institutions to charge standard fee to all students to access transcripts. Applies prohibition starting in 2024-2025 academic year. Requires post-secondary institutions to report to Higher Education Coordinating Commission on transcript requests, debt owed by students making transcript requests, and institutional policies on transcript holds by September 15, 2024.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impact on students of color and first-generation and low-income students
- Distinction from other student success-related holds
- Timeline for implementation at colleges and universities

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Withholding transcripts prevents students from transferring credits to other institutions or providing evidence of their credentials to employers. Six states (New York, California, Colorado, Maine, Minnesota, and Washington) currently prohibit the practice of transcript withholding. Five other states (Ohio, Louisiana, Virginia, Maryland, and New Jersey) have introduced legislation in the current session to restrict it.

OAR 715-045-0018 currently permits private career schools to "withhold an official transcript, certificate of completion, or diploma if the student has any outstanding debt owed to the school."

Senate Bill 424 prohibits colleges, universities, and career schools from withholding transcripts or penalizing students with outstanding account balances.