

HB 2961 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education

Action Date: 04/04/23

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 7-2-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Bowman, Hudson, Lively, Mannix, Ruiz, Sosa, Wright

Nays: 2 - Elmer, McIntire

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Ellen O'Brien, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/28, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Declares legislative findings. Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to establish program to enable post-secondary institutions of education to provide current high school students with services and outreach to transition from high school to post-secondary institutions and access available resources. Requires HECC to establish and administer block grant program to fund specified programs. Requires Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) to conduct comprehensive review of Oregon Student Child Care Grant Program and campus-based child care centers to determine how to meet needs of greatest number of students. Requires DELIC to submit report to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2024. Requires each public institution of higher education to develop integrated network of specified student support offices and provide each student with liaison responsible for helping student navigate integrated network. Permits HECC to provide Oregon Opportunity Grant awards in excess of maximum amount to low-income qualified students. Appropriates unspecified amount of General Fund to HECC to provide enhanced Oregon Opportunity Grants. Appropriates unspecified amount of General Fund to HECC to provide grants to keep students enrolled during emergency situations. Appropriates unspecified amount of General Fund to HECC for distribution to Oregon TRIO Association, Future Connect scholarship and support program, and Educational Opportunities Program. Appropriates unspecified amount of General Fund to HECC for purposes of implementing legislative findings. Appropriates unspecified amount of General Fund to HECC to provide block grants to public institutions of higher education. Declares emergency, takes effect July 1, 2023.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of amendment
- Recommendations from Joint Task Force on Underrepresented Students in Higher Education

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

The Joint Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education (JTUSHE) was a bicameral legislative task force established by House Bill 2590 (2021). The measure charged the task force with visiting public post-secondary institutions of education in order to meet with current, former, and prospective students from underrepresented backgrounds, and with developing policy and funding proposals that focus on increasing the likelihood of student success for underrepresented students in the areas of access, retention, graduation, and entry into the workforce. The task force approved its [Report on Findings and Recommendations for 2023 Legislative Session](#) on December 13, 2022. House Bill 2961 A combines a number of policies proposals

HB 2961 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

and recommendations from the task force.

- Policy proposal WS-4: Single Point Entry and Engagement for Continuous Integrated Service Provision, introduced by the director of the Office of Academic Policy and Authorization at the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, called for proactively engaging high school students to help them transition to higher education.
- Findings and recommendations from the financial aid and affordability work group included the recommendation to review and determine how student supports could meet the child care needs of the greatest number of parents.
- Policy proposal WS-2: Campus Coordinated Care, introduced by a staff member at Portland State University, called for a network of student support offices at each university and a university liaison to be assigned to each student.
- Policy proposal FA-17: Increase Award Amounts for Oregon Opportunity Grant called for the maximum grant award to be increased for students receiving federal Pell Grants or in households eligible for SNAP benefits.
- Findings and recommendations from the financial aid and affordability work group included the recommendation to provide consistent funding for emergency financial aid and completion grants to keep students enrolled through one-time or transitory emergency situations.
- Policy proposal WS-5: Effective Student Support and Wraparound Services Policy Priorities, introduced by the government relations director for Portland Community College, called for funding a block grant that colleges and universities could use for programs for first-generation and underserved students; academic coaching and guided pathways; mentoring; technology stipends; career and technical education (CTE) and career pathways programs; support for disability services; and support for Adult Basic Education (ABE), General Educational Development (GED), and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

House Bill 2961 A combines policy proposals related to college affordability and wraparound services proposed to the Joint Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education.