

SB 979 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 03/19/25

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

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Frederick, Gelser Blouin, Robinson, Sollman, Weber

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/5, 3/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to study methods to ensure post-secondary educational opportunities for individuals with disabilities, in consultation with an advisory group composed of specified members. It requires the advisory group to submit a report on the study to HECC by December 15, 2025, and requires HECC to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2026. The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Access to disability services in higher education
- Statewide coordination and consistency
- Training on disability accommodations for faculty and staff
- Similarities to task force proposed by Senate Bill 977

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment modifies the membership of the advisory group to include the executive director of HECC or their designee, and to remove the director of the diversity, equity, inclusion and access unit of HECC.

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). Among its [findings and recommendations](#) related to student support and wraparound services was the recommendation to form a work group to investigate whether statutory changes, policy changes, or investments would improve the experience and outcomes of students with disabilities in higher education.