

**Enrolled**  
**Senate Bill 231**

Sponsored by Senator GELSER, Representative EVANS; Senators FREDERICK, MONNES  
ANDERSON, Representatives KENY-GUYER, NOBLE (Presession filed.)

CHAPTER .....

AN ACT

Relating to mental health issues in higher education; and prescribing an effective date.

**Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

- SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Student Mental Health Support is established.**
- (2) The task force consists of 11 members appointed by the Governor as follows:**
- (a) One student at a public university listed in ORS 352.002;**
  - (b) One faculty member at a public university listed in ORS 352.002;**
  - (c) One student at a community college in this state;**
  - (d) One faculty member at a community college in this state;**
  - (e) Two directors of student counseling centers, one each from a public university listed in ORS 352.002 and from a community college in this state;**
  - (f) One substance abuse disorder practitioner;**
  - (g) Two mental health practitioners, one each from a public university listed in ORS 352.002 and from a community college in this state;**
  - (h) One member of the public who has a child who is a student at a public university listed in ORS 352.002 or at a community college in this state; and**
  - (i) One representative from the Oregon Health Authority.**
- (3) The task force shall investigate the extent to which mental health issues and substance abuse disorders have an impact on the educational mission set forth in ORS 350.014, with a specific emphasis on the impact that mental health issues and substance abuse disorders have on college recruitment, retention in college and program completion or graduation. The task force shall give particular attention to how mental health issues and substance abuse disorders differ across different communities in this state.**
- (4) The task force may:**
- (a) Consult experts, conduct literature reviews and perform other research;**
  - (b) Receive testimony in any form;**
  - (c) Request records and other documentation, while taking care to respect and abide by all rights and pledges of confidentiality that apply to the records and documentation; and**
  - (d) Receive and recommend changes to law, mental health practices, substance abuse policies, school policies, funding and other measures that are necessary to ensure that the state can meet the mission set forth in ORS 350.014 without a significant impact from student mental health issues and substance abuse disorders.**
- (5) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.**

(6) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the members of the task force.

(7) The task force shall elect one member to serve as chairperson.

(8) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appointment to become immediately effective.

(9) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson or of a majority of the voting members of the task force.

(10) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

(11) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and may include recommendations for legislation, to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to higher education no later than November 1, 2018.

(12) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission and the Oregon Health Authority shall provide staff support to the task force. The commission shall schedule and organize task force meetings and provide additional administrative support that is necessary to facilitate the operation of the task force. The commission and the authority shall collaborate to provide research, writing and other technical assistance that is necessary to produce the report described in subsection (11) of this section.

(13) Members of the task force are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses and serve as volunteers on the task force.

(14) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist the task force in the performance of the task force's duties and, to the extent permitted by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the task force consider necessary to perform their duties.

**SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2017 Act is repealed on December 31, 2018.

**SECTION 3.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$134,000, which may be expended for carrying out the provisions of section 1 of this 2017 Act.

**SECTION 4.** This 2017 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2017 regular session of the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

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**Passed by Senate July 1, 2017**

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Lori L. Brocker, Secretary of Senate

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

**Passed by House July 6, 2017**

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

**Received by Governor:**

.....M,....., 2017

**Approved:**

.....M,....., 2017

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Kate Brown, Governor

**Filed in Office of Secretary of State:**

.....M,....., 2017

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Dennis Richardson, Secretary of State