

Senate Bill 231

Sponsored by Senator GELSER, Representative EVANS; Senators FREDERICK, MONNES ANDERSON (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Establishes Task Force on Student Mental Health Support. Directs task force to investigate mental health issues among students, with emphasis on college recruitment, retention and completion.

Requires task force to submit report to interim committee of Legislative Assembly related to higher education no later than July 1, 2018.

Sunset December 31, 2018.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to mental health issues in higher education; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Student Mental Health Support is established.**

5 **(2) The task force consists of 15 members appointed as follows:**

6 **(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint two members from among members of the**
7 **Senate, ensuring that the members represent each caucus in the Senate.**

8 **(b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members from among**
9 **members of the House of Representatives, ensuring that the members represent each caucus**
10 **in the House of Representatives.**

11 **(c) The Governor shall appoint 11 members, who must be:**

12 **(A) One student at a public university listed in ORS 352.002;**

13 **(B) One faculty member at a public university listed in ORS 352.002;**

14 **(C) One student at a community college in this state;**

15 **(D) One faculty member at a community college in this state;**

16 **(E) Two mental health practitioners, one each from a public university listed in ORS**
17 **352.002 and from a community college in this state;**

18 **(F) Four members of the public, each of whom has at least one child who is a student**
19 **at a public university listed in ORS 352.002 or at a community college in this state; and**

20 **(G) One representative from the Oregon Health Authority.**

21 **(3) The task force shall investigate the extent to which mental health issues have an**
22 **impact on the educational mission set forth in ORS 350.014, with a specific emphasis on the**
23 **impact that mental health issues have on college recruitment, retention in college, and pro-**
24 **gram completion or graduation. The task force shall give particular attention to how mental**
25 **health issues differ across different communities in this state.**

26 **(4) The task force may:**

27 **(a) Consult experts, conduct literature reviews and perform other research;**

28 **(b) Receive testimony in any form;**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (c) Request records and other documentation, while taking care to respect and abide by
2 all rights and pledges of confidentiality that apply to the records and documentation; and

3 (d) Receive and recommend changes to law, mental health practices, school policies,
4 funding and other measures that are necessary to ensure that the state can meet the
5 mission set forth in ORS 350.014 without a significant impact from student mental health
6 issues.

7 (5) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction
8 of business.

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

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

12 (8) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-
13 ment to become immediately effective.

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

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

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

20 (12) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall provide staff support to the
21 task force.

22 (13) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not
23 entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses and serve as volunteers on the task
24 force.

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

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

30 SECTION 3. This 2017 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
31 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2017 Act takes effect
32 on its passage.