

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

Action:	Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Boquist, Cowan, Schaufler, Barker
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Scott
Prepared By:	Jim Keller, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows student who participates in the Oregon Troops to Teachers program to receive funds for cost of tuition at qualified independent institutions. Limits the amount that a student may receive for tuition to the amount charged by state institutions.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Expands choice of schools for veterans
- Applicant pool size
- Veteran's recalled before enrollment
- Late start of the program
- Disposition of unused funds

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The 2005 Oregon Legislative Assembly established the Oregon Troops to Teachers program, which is administered by the Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC). The legislature provided \$165,000 for the 2005-07 biennium, and applications are subject to available funding. The program pays the average cost of in-state resident tuition at an Oregon public college or university, provided the veteran is an Oregon resident, discharged with anything other than a dishonorable discharge, and agrees to teach in an Oregon school district or public charter school in a high poverty area for not less than three years or teaches in mathematics, science or special education for not less than four years.

House Bill 2577 would allow a veteran to attend a qualified independent institution in addition to an Oregon public college with the same requirements as the current program. The funding would be limited to the amount the program pays for the average in-state resident tuition at an Oregon public college or university.