

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference

**Vote:** 10 - 0 - 0

**Yeas:** Dembrow, Harker, Huffman, Komp, Maurer, Roblan, Sprenger, Thatcher, VanOrman, Gelser

**Nays:** 0

**Exc.:** 0

**Prepared By:** Kevin T. Christiansen, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 3/6, 4/22, 4/24

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Provides state institution of higher education shall include all universal and program specific resource fees as part of tuition costs for graduate students attending an institution for purposes of receiving graduate degree if the student is also a teacher or employee of the institution.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Fees charged to graduate students
- Disclosure of fees when a student receives an acceptance from an institution
- Differences in fees between institutions
- Fee implications for foreign students

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Replaces the measure.

**BACKGROUND:** A common way to finance a graduate education in the liberal arts, engineering, or the sciences is through graduate assistantships through a university. Employment of this kind may include conducting research or teaching undergraduate students. Graduate students are paid a salary, but often pay a sizable amount of that salary back to a university in the form of fees. Graduate students coming to Oregon, both from other states and other countries, are often unaware of this obligation when they agree to come to an Oregon university.

House Bill 2508A provides that all universal and program specific resources fees will be considered part of tuition costs for graduate students seeking a graduate degree provided the graduate student is also a teacher or employee of the institution. Including these fees as part of tuition costs would reduce out-of-pocket costs for graduate students, because they would be covered by tuition remission.