

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 7 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Boone, Esquivel, Freeman, Matthews, Riley, Weidner, Cowan

Nays: 0

Exc.: Komp

Prepared By: David Molina, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/26, 3/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires all Oregon universities and colleges to charge in-state tuition and fees for honorably discharged veterans. Removes residency requirements for persons receiving educational benefits for veterans. Mandates veterans pay same rate for distance learning as non-veterans. Requires institutions to participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program. Mandates veterans live in the state to qualify for the benefit. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Out-of-state veterans participating in distance learning education
- The need to explore Yellow Ribbon Program and federal Veterans Administration benefits to cover difference between out-of-state and in-state fees
- Emergency clause
- Widespread support among veterans and families, and veteran advocacy organizations

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Mandates veterans pay same rate for distance learning as non-veterans. Requires institutions participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program. Mandates veterans live in the state to qualify for the benefit. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

BACKGROUND: One of the top recommendations for the Governor's Task Force on Veterans' Service Report (December 2008) is to waive "out-of-state" tuition for veterans seeking access to education. The report recognized that veterans using the Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation, or state education benefits are being charged out-of-state tuition rates. Additionally, task force members learned that recruiting students to attend universities and colleges is competitive. House Bill 2571-A is similar to the Ohio GI Promise, which changes residence requirements at that state's 36 colleges and universities to allow all veterans, their spouses and dependents to attend Ohio colleges and universities at in-state tuition rates.

Provisions of House Bill 2571-A become operable effective on enactment of the New GI Bill, estimated for August 2009. The Post 9/11 GI Bill will provide full tuition and fees, monthly housing stipend, and \$1,000 yearly stipend for books and supplies. Guard and Reserve members must serve 36 months to receive the full benefit. Unlike the previous Montgomery GI Bill, service members are pro-rated for 90 days, 180 days, or 24 months of service. Also unlike the Montgomery GI Bill, in which benefits expire after 10 years of service, the new GI Bill will allow veterans to use this benefit for up to 15 years after honorable discharge.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.