

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Cowan
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Girod

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 19 – 0 – 3

House

Yeas: Buckley, D. Edwards, Garrard, Gilman, Jenson, Kotek, Nathanson, Richardson, Shields, G. Smith

Nays:

Exc: Galizio, Komp

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Carter, Girod, Johnson, Monroe, Verger, Walker, Whitsett, Winters

Nays:

Exc: Nelson

Prepared By: Erica Kleiner, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: June 12, 2009

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:

- Fiscal impact of the measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: One of the 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.