

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 9 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Dembrow, Harker, Huffman, Komp, Maurer, Sprenger, Thatcher, VanOrman, Gelser
Nays: 0
Exc.: Roblan
Prepared By: Kevin T. Christiansen, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Expands waiver of tuition at Oregon University System institutions and Oregon Health and Science University for child, spouse, or unremarried surviving spouse of service member. Extends eligible institutions' and community colleges' duty to report to Legislative Assembly regarding accommodation of financial needs of qualified students. Declares an emergency; effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Waiver of tuition for families
- Number of eligible persons
- Removing September 11, 2001 date from statute
- Requirement of classroom seat availability

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 1066 (2008) established a tuition waiver program for children, spouses, or unremarried surviving spouses of service members who died while on active duty or who, as result of a military service, died or were 100 percent disabled after September 11, 2001. The tuition waiver is available through the Oregon University System institutions and Oregon Health and Science University for qualified students pursuing baccalaureate or master's degrees. Senate Bill 1066 provided that the waiver was available only for open seats in courses already offered.

Approximately 4,887 Oregonians who were 100 percent disabled as of the fiscal year 2007 had spouses or children who qualified for the tuition waiver. Senate Bill 595 removes the September 11, 2001 date from the statute thereby expanding availability of the waiver.