

**2009 Regular Legislative Session**  
**FISCAL ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**  
**Prepared by the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office**

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**MEASURE NUMBER:** SB 595

**STATUS:** Original

**SUBJECT:** Tuition waiver expansion

**GOVERNMENT UNIT AFFECTED:** Department of Higher Education; Oregon Health and Science University

**PREPARED BY:** Erica Kleiner

**REVIEWED BY:** Paul Siebert, John Britton

**DATE:** March 30, 2009

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	<u>2009-2011</u>	<u>2011-2013</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b> See analysis		

**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

**GOVERNOR'S BUDGET:** This bill is not anticipated by the Governor's recommended budget.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANDATE:** This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

**ANALYSIS:** The measure expands a tuition waiver for certain qualified students enrolled in baccalaureate or master's degree programs in a state institution of higher education or Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) to include students who are the child, spouse, or un-remarried surviving spouse of a veteran of the United States Armed Forces who (a) died on active duty before September 11, 2001; (b) died as a result of a military service connected disability before September 11, 2001; or (c) is 100% disabled as the result of a military service connected disability before September 11, 2001. The current tuition waiver applies only to families of veterans who died or became disabled after September 11, 2001. The measure also requires that each institution of higher education, OHSU, and community college report to the Legislative Assembly, by February 1, 2011, on how they are accommodating the financial needs of qualified students, including the number of qualified students who received the waivers and scholarships and the waiver and scholarship amounts.

The tuition waiver will not be available to qualified students for all courses or programs offered by institutions of higher education or OHSU, and do not cover other mandatory enrollment fees. The waiver is intended to be restricted to courses with space available, or on an "open-seat" basis. Therefore, qualified students may have only a portion of their tuition waived under the program, if only some of the courses they enroll in have space available, or they may have no tuition waived if they enroll entirely in courses that are operating at capacity. Qualified students who are not enrolled in a degree program are not eligible for the waiver on the courses they take.

The number of students that will be made eligible by the expansion of the tuition waiver is unknown. Tuition revenues to institutions of higher education and OHSU will be reduced to the extent that students who would have enrolled without the program receive the waivers.