

Senate Bill 595

Sponsored by Senator HASS; Representative BARKER

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Deletes certain tuition waiver eligibility requirements for service members.
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to veterans; creating new provisions; amending sections 9 and 10, chapter 39, Oregon Laws
3 2008; and declaring an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 9, chapter 39, Oregon Laws 2008, is amended to read:

6 **Sec. 9.** (1) As used in this section:

7 (a) "Child" means a child, adopted child or stepchild of a service member.

8 (b) "Eligible post-secondary institution" means:

9 (A) A state institution of higher education listed in ORS 352.002; and

10 (B) The Oregon Health and Science University.

11 (c) "Qualified student" means a child, a spouse or an unremarried surviving spouse of a service
12 member.

13 (d) "Service member" means a person who:

14 (A) As a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, died on active duty [*after September*
15 *11, 2001*];

16 (B) As a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, died as a result of a military service
17 connected disability [*sustained after September 11, 2001*]; or

18 (C) Is 100 percent disabled as the result of a military service connected disability [*sustained after*
19 *September 11, 2001*], as certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or any branch
20 of the Armed Forces of the United States.

21 (2) Subject to subsections (3) to (6) of this section, an eligible post-secondary institution shall
22 waive tuition for a qualified student for courses that may lead to a baccalaureate degree or a mas-
23 ter's degree. A qualified student who received a tuition waiver for a baccalaureate degree may also
24 qualify for a tuition waiver for a master's degree.

25 (3)(a) The maximum waiver granted under this section shall be as follows:

26 (A) For a baccalaureate degree, the total number of credit hours that equals four years of full-
27 time attendance at an eligible post-secondary institution.

28 (B) For a master's degree, the total number of credit hours that equals two years of full-time
29 attendance at an eligible post-secondary institution.

30 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection, a waiver may not exceed the total number
31 of credit hours the qualified student needs to graduate with a baccalaureate degree or a master's

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 degree.

2 (4) A waiver may be granted under this section only for credit hours for courses that are offered
 3 by an eligible post-secondary institution and are available for enrollment regardless of whether the
 4 qualified student attends the course and pays tuition.

5 (5) A qualified student may receive a waiver under this section if the student:

6 (a) At the time of application for a waiver, is considered a resident of this state for the purpose
 7 of determining tuition to be paid at an eligible post-secondary institution; and

8 (b) Has been admitted to an eligible post-secondary institution for a baccalaureate degree pro-
 9 gram or has been admitted to a master’s degree program at an eligible post-secondary institution.

10 (6)(a) A child who applies for a waiver under this section must be 23 years of age or younger
 11 at the time the child applies for a waiver.

12 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection, a child who is older than 23 years of age
 13 is eligible for a waiver for a master’s degree if the child:

14 (A) Applied for and received a waiver for a baccalaureate degree when the child was 23 years
 15 of age or younger; and

16 (B) Applied for a waiver for a master’s degree within 12 months of receiving a baccalaureate
 17 degree.

18 **SECTION 2.** Section 10, chapter 39, Oregon Laws 2008, is amended to read:

19 **Sec. 10.** (1) As used in this section, “qualified student” has the meaning given that term in
 20 section 9, **chapter 39, Oregon Laws 2008** [*of this 2008 Act*].

21 (2) No later than February 1, [2009] **2011**, each state institution of higher education listed in
 22 ORS 352.002, each community college as defined in ORS 341.005 and the Oregon Health and Science
 23 University shall report to the [*Seventy-fifth*] **Seventy-sixth** Legislative Assembly as provided in ORS
 24 192.245.

25 (3) The report required by subsection (2) of this section shall describe how the institution,
 26 community college or university is accommodating the financial needs of qualified students, includ-
 27 ing:

28 (a) The number of qualified students who received a waiver under section 9, **chapter 39,**
 29 **Oregon Laws 2008,** [*of this 2008 Act*] and the amounts of those waivers.

30 (b) Scholarships offered specifically to qualified students, the number of qualified students who
 31 received those scholarships and the amounts of those scholarships.

32 (c) Any other financial assistance provided to qualified students.

33 **SECTION 3.** The amendments to section 9, chapter 39, Oregon Laws 2008, by section 1
 34 of this 2009 Act become operative on July 1, 2009, and first apply to the 2009-2010 school year.

35 **SECTION 4.** This 2009 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
 36 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2009 Act takes effect
 37 on its passage.