

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 3 - 0

Yeas: Dembrow, Frederick, Komp, Gelser, Wingard

Nays: Conger, Huffman, Parrish

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Victoria Cox, Committee Administrator

Meeting Dates: *Subcommittee: 3/22, 3/31, 4/5; Full: 4/6, 4/8*

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires state institutions of higher education, community colleges and Oregon Health and Science University to waive tuition and fees for current or former foster children under 25 years of age. Specifies foster child enrolled at post-secondary institution as undergraduate may receive award no later than three years after removal from care or receiving high school diploma. Provides that students are eligible to receive awards for equivalent of four academic years. Specifies conditions for receiving tuition waiver. Expands college scholarship program to include current foster children. Provides algorithm for determining amount of waiver. Details role of the Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC) in administering waiver and determining amount of student, family, federal and state share. Requires OSAC to adopt rules prioritizing foster children and former foster children for purposes of awarding Oregon Opportunity Grant. Requires recipients of tuition waivers to perform community service.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Barriers to transitioning out of foster care, attaining higher education, and degree completion
- State return on human investment
- Impact of financial assistance and stability on foster youth
- Intercultural Mentoring Program Advancing Community Ties (IMPACT) at University of Oregon
- Tuition waiver calculated as residual after scholarship and grant reductions
- Community service requirement for tuition waiver
- Portion of Oregon Opportunity Grant dollars directed to foster youth
- Portland Community College report on foster youth initiatives
- Creation of one-stop model for foster youth services

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Details role of OSAC in administering waiver and determining amount of student, family, federal, and state share. Requires OSAC to adopt rules prioritizing foster children and former foster children for purposes of awarding Oregon Opportunity Grant. Requires recipients of tuition waiver to perform community service.

BACKGROUND: According to the Department of Human Services (DHS), the State of Oregon currently supports nearly 8,700 foster children. In 2002, DHS and OSAC entered into a partnership to implement and track scholarships for foster youth. Since that time, they have noted an increase of nearly 750 percent in the number of foster youth applying for scholarships. Foster youth are pursuing a range of post-secondary and training options. House Bill 3471-A increases access to higher education for current and former foster children by providing a tuition waiver for the family portion of student financial aid contribution, minimizing the amount of tuition absorbed by the student.

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