

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

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Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 23 – 0 – 2

House

Yeas: Beyer, Buckley, Cowan, Freeman, Garrard, Komp, Kotek, McLane, Nathanson, Richardson,  
G. Smith, Thatcher, Whisnant

Nays:

Exc: Nolan

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Devlin, Edwards, Girod, Johnson, Monroe, Thomsen, Verger, Whitsett, Winters

Nays:

Exc: Nelson

Prepared By: Monica Brown, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: June 8, 2011

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**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:**

- Cost to the Oregon University System and its ability to address the impact with no additional funding

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** According to the Department of Human Services (DHS), the State of Oregon 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.