

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Bonamici, George, Morse, Shields, Hass

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Linda Lindholm, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/22, 3/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes a Task Force on Tuition Waivers for Veterans at Community Colleges. Requires task force of community college district presidents to address policy development and consistency in community college tuition waiver for children, spouses and surviving spouses of deceased or disabled veterans. Directs task force to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly before the convening of the 2012 Legislative Assembly. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Autonomy of community college governance
- Disparate and restrictive policies at seventeen community colleges
- Oregon University System tuition waiver policy and alignment
- Eligible students and community college capacity
- Collaboration between community college task force and Veterans' Affairs

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Establishes Task Force on Tuition Waivers for Veterans at Community Colleges in Oregon. Directs task force to address tuition waiver policy issues and report to the Legislative Assembly.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 1066, enacted in 2008, allows dependents of service members killed in action or dependents of 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans to attend college on a space-available basis without tuition costs. Senate Bill 1066 was amended to apply only to the Oregon University System after community college representatives indicated that tuition waivers would be implemented through policy provisions at the individual schools. According to veterans' groups and individuals, tuition waiver policies for the families of deceased or disabled veterans are varied, more restrictive and have not been consistently implemented throughout the community college system. Senate Bill 338-A establishes a Task Force on Tuition Waivers for Veterans at Community Colleges to develop policies that are uniform and consistent throughout Oregon's higher education system.

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