

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	6 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Boone, Huffman, Matthews, Parrish, Esquivel, Witt
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Jill Petty, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/26, 5/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes Task Force on Tuition Waivers for Spouses and Dependents of Fallen and Disabled Soldiers at Community Colleges (Task Force). Requires Task Force of community college district presidents, in consultation with Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs, to address policy development and consistency in community college tuition waivers for children, spouses and surviving spouses of deceased or disabled veterans. Directs Task Force to submit a report to Legislative Assembly before convening of 2012 Legislative Assembly. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Community college exemption from Senate Bill 1066
- Inaction by some community colleges
- Uniformity needed among community colleges in waiver process

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Clarifies Task Force is established for tuition waivers for spouses and dependents of fallen and disabled soldiers. Requires Task Force to consult with Department of Veterans Affairs.

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 B 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.