

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce Development
<b>Vote:</b>	4 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Monnes Anderson, Olsen, President Courtney, Boquist
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Lori Brocker, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	2/23, 3/16

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Expands post-secondary institution tuition waiver for children, spouses and unremarried surviving spouses of deceased or disabled veterans to include community college students. Provides that waiver first applies to 2011-2012 school year. Exempts otherwise qualified student for any school year in which student received Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship. Declares emergency, effective on July 1, 2011.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Disability rating schedule for veterans
- Meaning of 100 percent disabled according to rating schedule
- Compensation based on rating
- Interplay of Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs
- Meaning of “catastrophically disabled” and “unemployable” in veterans’ disability context
- Intent of measure
- Variance of policies among community colleges
- Barriers to college education
- Application of waiver under current law

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

**BACKGROUND:** The 2008 Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 1066, which allowed 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 cost. 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. Waivers, however, have not been consistently implemented and applied throughout the community college system.

Senate Bill 338 adds community colleges to the tuition waiver provisions for children, spouses and unremarried surviving spouses of deceased or disabled veterans in ORS 351.656.