

SB 820 Veterans In State Tuition

Testimony by Mark San Souci, 16 April 2013, Oregon Senate Committee on Education and Workforce Development

Chair Hass and committee, on behalf of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, thank you for the opportunity to discuss and to express Department of Defense support for SB 820 in an effort to 'Allows nonresident veterans discharged under honorable conditions to pay tuition and fees at Oregon resident rates.'

My name is Mark San Souci, Department of Defense Regional Liaison for Military Families for the Northwest, working for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Family & Community Policy.

As of March 13th, when the State of Virginia enacted legislation resembling SB 820, there are now 20 states allowing new veterans receiving the Post 9-11 GI Bill to pay in state tuition rates in the first year of study, rather than having to pay out of pocket differences between in state and out of state rates.

The Virginia Department of Planning and Budget, when enrolling their Fiscal Impact Statement, wrote, "This legislation is not expected to have a fiscal impact on institutions of higher education." We believe their evaluation concluded this because they know that new veterans moving to Virginia to attend higher education institutions are expected to compete for in state slots, and others will compete for and fill their out of state slots, so there is no fiscal impact.

Link to HB 1461, and also see end of testimony for copy/paste of statement: <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?l3l+oth+HB1461FER122+PDF>

The 20 states that have already recognized that granting new veterans in state rates for tuition purposes benefits their state, and potentially incentivizes veterans to move to Virginia.

These 20 states know that they can attract veteran students based on the suitability of degree requirements, and not necessarily on affordability, while gaining students with full Post 9-11 GI Bill funding, paid directly to the institutions. Many of these veterans will remain in their state, become residents, establish careers, and establish long term affiliations with their colleges and universities.

And as of April 10th, 12 other states besides Oregon have similar measures in their legislatures.

The generation of vets this targets includes almost all of whom have done multiple combat tours in Iraq/Afghanistan. That are 1% of our young people serving our nation; we need to incorporate them deeply into our communities.

Clearly, military veterans face huge challenges today to transition back into what we would hope to be productive in civilian society and gainful employment. We believe this measure to help with the educational transition aids greatly in the transition. SB 820 will help level the playing field for our veterans so they can meet their family's financial needs while continuing the educational opportunities so needed for a successful transition.

In closing, we are grateful for the tremendous effort that Oregon has historically provided in supporting our service members and their families, including the veterans academic and occupational credit bill last year and the others before that.

I wish to thank this committee for taking up this measure, and appreciate that you have been a champion for us for many years. I stand for any questions you may have.

MARK B. SAN SOUCI

Northwest Regional State Liaison (WA, AK, ID, OR)

Defense State Liaison Office

Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense

(Military Community and Family Policy)

571-309-4622 or 253-273-2214

www.USA4MilitaryFamilies.org

Mark.SanSouci@osd.mil

**Virginia Department of Planning and Budget
2013 Fiscal Impact Statement**

1. Bill Number: HB1461ER

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Lingamfelter

3. Committee: Passed both Houses

4. Title: Eligibility for in-state tuition charges for military members or dependents.

5. Summary: Clarifies eligibility for in-state tuition of current and former military personnel

and their dependents. The bill also grants eligibility for in-state tuition charges to veterans

residing within the Commonwealth.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: None.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Final.

8. Fiscal Implications: This legislation is not expected to have a fiscal impact on institutions

of higher education.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: All state supported colleges and

universities.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: SB 1242 is the companion bill, which is enrolled.

Date: 2/28/13

Document: HB1461ER.DOCX

c: Secretary of Education