

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

REVENUE: No revenue impact (A-engrossed version)**FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued (A engrossed version)****SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: Education and Workforce Development****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Cheyenne Ross, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 5/9, 5/23, 5/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires public universities and community colleges charge in-state tuition of undergraduate veterans discharged from service under conditions other than dishonorable, if specified criteria are met with regard to elementary or secondary school attendance. Requires no more than in-state tuition plus half the difference between resident and nonresident rates be charged by public universities and community colleges, of any veteran discharged under other than dishonorable conditions, graduate or undergraduate. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of -A8, duplicating SB 820
- How to maintain residency requirement or other meaningful connection to Oregon
- Vetting process in House committee to achieve A-engrossed version
- Ultimate goal to provide tuition for veterans; A-engrossed version a starting place
- Amending in House committee a compromised to improve chance of success of measure
- General confusion about fiscal impact; both SB 820 and HB 2158A “indeterminate”
- Ways to reduce costs
- Cost increases over time
- Ways to encourage veterans to come to Oregon
- Existing education-related benefits for veterans
- Other amendment ideas including expansion of dependent tuition waiver program to dependents of Purple Heart recipients and providing “presumption of residency” for veterans upon application
- Work group activity and progression through each set of amendments, culminating with -A15
- Support for -A15

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

[-A8 amendment] Replaces measure. Requires public universities and community colleges to charge in-state tuition for all honorably discharged veteran undergraduates regardless of residency. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

[-A9 amendment] Permits veterans enrolled within 12 months of discharge to meet residency requirements anytime within 12 months of enrollment.

[-A10 amendment] Expands tuition waiver program for dependents of deceased veterans at ORS 351.656 to include dependents of recipients of Purple Heart. Provides “last dollar” accounting structure for such expansion.

[-A11 amendment] Combines -A8 duplication of Senate Bill 820 and -A10 Purple Heart expansion of dependent tuition waiver program.

5/23/2013 4:09:00 PM *

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

[-A12 amendment] (Result of work group meeting on 5/13/2013, et al; combines features of previous amendments.) Replaces measure. Requires public universities and community colleges to charge in-state tuition for undergraduate veterans with either honorable discharge or general under honorable discharge without regard to residency. Declares emergency, effective on passage (-A8). Permits veterans to meet residency requirement within 12 months of enrollment (-A9). Expands tuition waiver program for dependents of deceased and 100%-disabled veterans at ORS 351.656 to include dependents of recipients of Purple Heart (-A10), awarded 2001 forward. Changes dependent tuition waiver program from “middle dollar” to “last dollar,” excluding federal Dependent Educational Assistance Program funds. Makes changes applicable to students only enrolled fall 2013 forward. Requires recordkeeping and annual reporting to legislature.

[-A13 amendment] Incorporates -A12 with the following changes: Permits veterans to show physical presence in Oregon within 12 months of enrollment for purpose of in-state tuition. Clarifies definition of Purple Heart recipient. Removes reference to Chafee grant. Makes applicable to new students only, excluding continuing students, enrolled September 1, 2013, forward.

[-A14 amendment] Incorporates -A12 with the following changes: Removes spouses and surviving spouses from tuition waiver program for dependents of deceased and 100%-disabled veterans. Makes applicable to students enrolled September 15, 2013, forward.

[-A15 amendment] Incorporates -A13 with the following changes: Excludes spouses and surviving spouses of Purple Heart recipients only, from dependent tuition waiver program. Changes applicable enrollment date for new students to September 15, 2013, forward.

BACKGROUND: Under current law, honorably-discharged, nonresident veteran undergraduates at public universities and community colleges in Oregon receive a tuition reduction until they establish residency: they may not be charged more than the resident rate plus half the difference between resident and nonresident rates (ORS 352.375).

Community Colleges in Oregon do not generally differentiate between in-state and out-of-state students, so everyone pays the same; but the Oregon University System does. There are presently 193 nonresident veterans enrolled in Oregon universities, and the GI Bill only covers the cost of in-state tuition, not the 50 percent difference.

House Bill 2158A, first, extends the existing tuition reduction for nonresident undergraduate veterans to *graduate* veterans as well; and second, requires in-state tuition for honorably-discharged nonresident undergraduate veterans who attended elementary and/or high school in any state or territory, within specified time frames, and received a high school diploma or equivalent in Oregon.

House committee vote: 7 • 0 • 0

House floor vote: 59 • 0 • 1