

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 7 - 0 - 2
Yeas: Gallegos, Gilliam, Gomberg, Keny-Guyer, Whisnant, Whitsett, Tomei
Nays: 0
Exc.: Gelser, Olson
Prepared By: Regina Wilson, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 3/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies definition of “former foster child” to reflect federal standard for higher education grants, tuition waivers and scholarship purposes.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Aligning definition of “former foster child” for continuity in financial aid eligibility determination
- Chafee Educational and Training Voucher Program
- Tuition waiver

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Definitions play a significant role in determining post-secondary financial aid eligibility for youth who may be transitioning from a dependent to an independent adult. To resolve definitional questions, provisions of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (2009) added “emancipated minor” and “being in a legal guardianship” to the definition of independent student. It also modified “orphan” or “ward of the court” until age 18, to “orphan” or “ward of the court” or in foster care at any time on or after 13 years of age. House Bill 2095 updates the definition of “former foster child” in Oregon statute to conform to the federal standard.