

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

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**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

**Vote:** 4 - 0 - 1

**Yeas:** Beyer, Knopp, Kruse, Hass

**Nays:** 0

**Exc.:** Roblan

**Prepared By:** Richard Donovan, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 4/23, 4/30

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Aligns definition of “former foster child” with federal standard for purposes of higher education grants, tuition waivers and scholarships. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- History of program
- Part of problem based on inaccurate definition from 2001 scholarship fund legislation
- Amended measure adequately addresses potential administrative problem

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Removes three year time period requirement since “removal from care of Department of Human Services (DHS), the date the student graduated from high school or the date the student received the equivalent of a high school diploma.” (This relates to the potential inability of DHS to confirm eligibility because it does not have any information about amount of time out of school/DHS care.)

**BACKGROUND:** Provisions of the Federal 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-A updates the definition of “former foster child” in Oregon statute to conform to the federal standard.