

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

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

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass with Amendments to the A-Engrossed Measure (Printed B-Engrossed) and Rescind the Subsequent Referral 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>	Cheyenne Ross, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	5/9, 5/23, 5/30

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires public universities and community colleges charge in-state tuition of undergraduate veterans with either honorable discharge, or general discharge under honorable conditions, if physical presence in Oregon shown within 12 months of enrollment. Expands veterans dependent tuition waiver program to include children of recipients of Purple Hearts awarded 2001 forward. Modifies accounting for dependent tuition waiver program to permit exhaustion of other benefits toward tuition when possible, before use of state dollars, excluding federal Dependent Educational Assistance Program funds. Applicable to new students enrolled September 15, 2013, forward. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- How to maintain residency requirement or other meaningful connection to Oregon
- General confusion about fiscal impact
- Ways to reduce costs and increase in costs 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:** Replaces original measure.

**BACKGROUND:** Under current law, all honorably-discharged, nonresident veteran undergraduates at public universities and community colleges in Oregon receive a tuition reduction until they establish residency: they pay the resident rate plus half the difference between resident and nonresident rates (ORS 352.375). The GI Bill only covers the cost of tuition, not the 50-percent difference. It’s also important to note that, while the law applies to both public universities and community colleges, in practice, community colleges do not generally distinguish between in-state and out-of-state students.

Beginning with newly-enrolled students in fall of 2013, House Bill 2158B requires in-state tuition for undergraduate veterans with either an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions, if the veteran demonstrates his or her physical presence in Oregon within 12 months of enrollment. The measure also adds the children of recipients of Purple Hearts, awarded from 2001 forward, to the list of dependents who are eligible for tuition waivers under the veterans dependent tuition waiver program (ORS 351.656). Finally, the measure modifies accounting for the veterans dependent tuition waiver program, to permit other benefits, such as federal grants and scholarships, to be applied toward tuition when possible, before state funds are expended.

6/4/2013 12:02:00 PM

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