

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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Action: Do Pass

Vote: 10 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Barton, Fagan, Freeman, Holvey, Kennemer, Matthews, Thatcher, Thompson, Weidner, Witt

Nays: 0

Exc.: Doherty

Prepared By: Jan Nordlund, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/3

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Expands scholarships for children of public safety officers killed or disabled in the line of duty to include children of reserve officers and volunteer firefighters killed or injured in the line of duty.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Valuable service of reserve officers and volunteer firefighters
- Training and testing requirements to become a reserve officer
- Number of reserve officers and volunteer firefighters serving Oregon
- 2011 legislation addressing authority of and protections for reserve officers

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Existing statute requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to award scholarships to children of public safety officers killed or disabled in the line of duty. The student can use the scholarship at any state public university or community college, at the Oregon Health and Science University, or any Oregon-based regionally accredited independent institution. The scholarship shall pay for tuition and all fees but may not exceed the tuition and fees charged by the University of Oregon. The student is entitled to renew the scholarship until the student has received the equivalent of four years of undergraduate education and four years of post-graduate education. The child is eligible for the scholarship if the public safety officer's (current) income is less than that earned by public safety officers performing duties comparable to those performed at the highest rank or grade attained by the officer.

House Bill 4120 expands eligibility for the scholarship to children of slain or disabled reserve officers and volunteer firefighters. The child will be eligible if the (current) income of the reserve officer or volunteer firefighter working in their primary field is less than that earned by individuals working in the same field with similar levels of education and experience. The measure applies to scholarships awarded on or after the effective date, regardless of when the reserve officer or volunteer firefighter was killed or disabled.

Oregon City Reserve Officer Robert Libke was fatally shot November 3, 2013, when responding to a call about a house fire and a gunman at large. Reserve Officer Libke worked as a general supervisor at Evraz Oregon Steel while training with the Oregon City Police Department.