

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued****SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: Education (need to request rescission of subsequent referral)****Action:****Vote:**

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Cheyenne Ross, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 5/5, 5/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires public universities to give eligible veterans and servicemembers enrollment priority over other students. Permits community colleges to establish priority enrollment system. Provides minimum requirements for priority enrollment system. Applies to new and continuing students on or after September 15, 2016.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Encouraging use of military educational benefits
- Time limit on use of military educational benefits
- Possibility of extending priority enrollment to include veterans' and servicemembers' family members
- Possibility of extending to narrower group of dependents such as surviving spouses and children of deceased or disabled veterans

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

[-B5 amendment] Extends priority enrollment to include veterans' and servicemembers' dependents.

BACKGROUND: The Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits cover tuition equal to the highest public university tuition rate in each state, for 36 months of full-time enrollment. Additionally, a stipend for housing is provided equal to an E-5 pay grade with dependents (on the military enlisted pay scale) during all periods of full-time enrollment. At present, the 36-month entitlement may be billed for placement exams, or developmental or remedial classes before the student is qualified to enroll in a full-time program.

California, Illinois, and Wisconsin, have all passed legislation establishing priority enrollment for qualified veterans at public universities. House Bill 2645 B gives eligible veterans and servicemembers priority enrollment at public universities, and at community colleges that have established a priority enrollment system.

House Veterans Committee: 6 – 0 – 1

House Education Committee: 9 – 0 – 0

House Floor: 58 – 0 – 2

5/18/2015 9:34:00 AM *

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