

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/10/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments, Be Printed Engrossed And Be Referred To Higher Education, Innovation, And Workforce Development By Prior Reference.

Meeting Dates: 02/05, 02/10

House

Yeas: 6 - Boone, Esquivel, Piluso, Lively, Parrish, Huffman

Exc: 1 - Evans

Prepared By: Bryan Guiney, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires community colleges and public universities consult Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to establish priority enrollment for qualified first-time veterans or active service members. Removes requirement for proof of residency and time limit to apply. Requires ODVA certification.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Challenges to veterans as non-traditional students
- Effect law would have on small colleges

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Removes requirement for proof of residence in Oregon for redundancy, clarifies requirement to consult with ODVA, and removes time limit to apply for priority registration.

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 E-5 pay grade with dependents, during all periods of full-time enrollment. At present, the 36-month entitlement may be billed for placement exams, 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 first-time veterans at public universities.

House Bill 2645 A establishes priority enrollment for qualified first-time veterans or active service members in the State of Oregon.