

House Committee On Higher Education, Innovation, and Workforce Development

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued

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**Action Date:** 02/20/15

**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments, Be Printed Engrossed And Be Referred To Ways And Means By Prior Reference.

**Meeting Dates:** 02/06, 02/20

**House**

**Yeas:** 9 - Gallegos, Hayden, Johnson, McKeown, Williamson, Read, Reardon, Whisnant, Nearman

**Prepared By:** Victoria Cox, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Abolishes unfunded higher education loan, scholarship and grant programs. Combines fund accounts for alternative student loan program, scholarships for foster youth, and Nursing Services Program to allow for consolidated accounting. Separates statutes regarding scholarships for foster youth and scholarships for dependent children of deceased and disabled public safety officers. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Unfunded programs still in statute
- Separation, not elimination, of foster youth scholarships and dependent youth of deceased and disabled public safety officers
- Need to continue Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Program

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Removes language relating to Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Program.

**BACKGROUND:**

A number of old, defunct and unfunded scholarship and grant programs exist in statutes under the auspices of the Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC). House Bill 2409-A abolishes those programs. Additionally, the measure combines the accounts of several funded programs in order to consolidate accounting procedures.

OSAC administers two scholarship programs governed by one statute: One for dependent children of public safety officers killed or disabled in the line of duty and one for former foster youth. House Bill 2409-A separates this statute into two to eliminate confusion between these programs.