

**Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session**  
**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**House Committee On Higher Education, Innovation, and Workforce Development**

**MEASURE: HB 2645 B**  
**CARRIER: Rep. Witt**

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 03/18/15

**Action:** Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

**Meeting Dates:** 03/09, 03/18

**Vote:**

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

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

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires community colleges and public universities to 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. Provides for new student orientation requirements. Exempts community colleges without priority registration. Requires ODVA certification.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Increased need for college counselling
- Issues surrounding college admission and course enrollment faced by veterans
- Portland Community College to implement priority registration summer of 2015
- Limitations of VA requirements and restrictions regarding courses that may be applied toward a degree

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Provides for new student orientation requirements. Exempts community colleges without 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-B establishes priority enrollment for qualified first-time veterans or active service members in the State of Oregon.