

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Senate Committee On Education****Fiscal:** Budget Report Issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 04/02/15**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments And Requesting Referral To Ways And Means.
(Printed A-Engrossed.)**Meeting Dates:** 03/24, 04/02**Vote:**

Yeas: 4 - Beyer, Gelsler, Hass, Roblan

Nays: 2 - Knopp, Kruse

Exc: 1 - Baertschiger Jr

Prepared By: Gretchen Engbring, Committee Administrator**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Extends eligibility for receiving state financial aid scholarships and grants to specified students who qualify for exemption from paying nonresident tuition. Removes requirement that specified students must enroll at public university within three years of graduating high school or graduate from public university within five years of initial enrollment to be entitled to exemption from nonresident tuition and fees at public universities. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of tuition equity legislation
- Lack of access to state need-based aid
- Current time limits on enrollment and graduation too restrictive
- Challenges associated with attending school while working part or full time
- Financial barriers to higher education
- Number of students impacted by proposed legislation

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Requires that specified students must receive a high school diploma or equivalent from a secondary school in Oregon in order to be eligible to receive state financial aid scholarships and grants.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 2787 (2013) provides that the State Board of Higher Education shall exempt a student who is not a citizen or lawful permanent resident from paying nonresident tuition at state universities if the student has attended an Oregon elementary or high school for three years immediately prior to receiving a high school diploma (or leaving school without receiving a diploma), attended a school in any U.S. state or territory during each of the five years immediately prior to receiving a high school diploma (or leaving school without receiving a diploma), received a high school diploma from an Oregon school no more than three years prior to enrollment at a state university, and demonstrated intent to become a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States. Resident tuition and fees for students who are not U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents are now regulated by ORS 351.641. However, students who are not citizens or permanent residents may not currently be considered for state financial aid scholarships or grants under statute.

Senate Bill 932-A allows students who are not citizens or permanent residents to receive state financial aid scholarships and grants if they qualify for the exemption from paying nonresident tuition that ORS 351.641 provides. In addition, Senate Bill 932-A removes the requirement that these students must enroll at a public university within three years of graduating high school or graduate from public university within five years of initial enrollment to be entitled to an exemption from nonresident tuition and fees at public universities.