

## **HB 2890 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness**

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**Prepared By:** Bradley Volk, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 4/11, 4/13

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Directs that \$500,000 from the Administrative Services Economic Development Fund be allocated to the Oregon Military Department (OMD). Establishes \$475,000 as the maximum limit that the OMD will allocate for the purpose of providing tuition waivers to members of the Oregon National Guard, and further establishes that \$25,000 is the maximum limit that the OMD will allocate for the purpose of paying administrative costs associated with providing tuition waivers. Directs that OMD may not pay for tuition waiver of a member of the Oregon National Guard unless the member has exhausted all federal tuition assistance programs available to the member. Takes effect 91st day after *sine die*.

*FISCAL: Fiscal impact statement issued*

*REVENUE: No revenue impact*

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

##### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-1 Replaces the measure.

##### **BACKGROUND:**

The Oregon Military Department (OMD) administers, equips, and trains the Oregon Army and Air National Guard. These state militia units are under the jurisdiction of the Governor of Oregon through the office of the Oregon Adjutant General acting on behalf of the OMD to provide protection of life and property, and preserve peace, order and public safety. State missions include disaster relief in times of earthquakes, hurricanes, floods and forest fires, search and rescue, protection of public services and support to civil defense. The units can be federalized by order of the President of the United States in which case guardsman may be activated to serve along side active duty and reserve components.

Individuals serving in the United State military on active duty, reservists, and national guard personnel may be eligible for the Post- 9/11 GI Bill provided the individual served at least 90 days of aggregate qualifying active duty time after September 10, 2001, or were honorably discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability after serving 30 continuous days following September 10, 2001. To receive the maximum 100% entitlement of 36 months of educational benefits, an individual must have served an aggregate of at least 36 months of qualifying active duty time after September 10, 2001. The current maximum entitlement is all tuition and fee payments for an in-state student, or \$21,970 at a private or foreign school. Individuals who have between 90 days but less than 6 months of qualifying active duty time receive 40% of the maximum educational benefits.

The Oregon Tuition waiver program (ORS 399.275) provides that the OMD, subject to the availability of funds, may provide a member of the Oregon National Guard or a surviving family member with up to 100% of the resident tuition charges. Providing education benefits to members of the Oregon National Guard is seen as a necessary tool to attract and retain members.

House Bill 2890 as amended provides a funding source for the OMD to provide tuition waivers to members of the Oregon National Guard in circumstances where an individual has first exhausted all federal tuition assistance programs.

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

PRELIMINARY