

HB 3423 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 5/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Exempts Oregon National Guard members who have completed initial active duty training from requirement to enroll in community college courses within six months of attaining previous highest level of education in order to qualify for Oregon Promise grant. Clarifies that in order to qualify for grant, member must enroll in community college courses within six months of completing initial active duty training, as evidenced by U.S. Department of Defense form.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Grant accessibility for Oregon National Guard members
- Conflict between Oregon Promise 6-month requirement and active duty training time requirements
- Importance of Oregon National Guard members' access to community college and degree-earning opportunities
- Incentives for service recruitment

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon National Guard consists of the Oregon Army National Guard and Oregon Air National Guard, and is charged with supporting the governor of Oregon during unrest or natural disaster. It is also a reserve force to the United States Air Force and United States Army.

Initial active duty training typically takes Oregon National Guard members between 3.5 to 12 months to complete, and military regulation requires completion within 24 months. While some soldiers are recruited in high school and attend the first phase of basic training between their junior and senior year, many individuals' active duty training schedules prevent them from being able to attend community college within six months of high school graduation, making them ineligible for the Oregon Promise grant program.