

HB 2890 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Action Date: 04/13/17

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 7-0-1-0

Yeas: 7 - Esquivel, Evans, Lewis, Lively, Meek, Parrish, Post

Exc: 1 - Boone

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Bradley Volk, LPRO Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allocates \$500,000 to the Oregon Military Department (OMD) from the Administrative Services Economic Development Fund for tuition waivers for Oregon National Guard members. Requires at least \$475,000 be used for tuition waivers and up to \$25,000 for administrative costs. Prohibits tuition waiver unless all available federal assistance programs are exhausted. Takes effect 91st day after *sine die*.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Gaps in tuition assistance when other programs are not unavailable or are exhausted

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Military Department (OMD) administers, equips, and trains the Oregon Army and Air National Guard. These military units are under the jurisdiction of the Governor through the office of the Adjutant General to protect life and property in Oregon and elsewhere and provide reserves for the U.S. Air Force and Army. State missions include augmenting local and state law enforcement, firefighters, search and rescue personnel and other first responders with public safety and disaster relief.

Individuals on active duty in the United State Armed Forces, reservists, and national guard personnel may be eligible for the Post- 9/11 GI Bill if they served an aggregate of at least 90 days of qualifying active duty after September 10, 2001, or were honorably discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability after serving 30 continuous days after 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 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 and 6 months of qualifying active duty receive 40% of the maximum educational benefits. Benefits are on a sliding scale depending on the amount of qualifying active duty.

The Oregon Tuition Waiver Program provides that, subject to the availability of funds, OMD may provide a member of the Oregon National Guard or a surviving family member with up to 100% of resident tuition

House Bill 2890 A funds the Oregon Tuition Waiver Program to provide tuition waivers to members of the Oregon National Guard when federal tuition assistance programs are exhausted.