

SB 911 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 04/18/17

Action: Do pass with amendments. Refer to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng).

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Gelser, Hass, Kruse, Linthicum, Roblan

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Indian Health Scholarship Program administered by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year. Establishes program requirements. Defines qualifying degree programs as those programs offered at Oregon Health and Science University. Defines tribal service site as either a health care facility located on a federally recognized reservation in Oregon or a health care facility located in Oregon serving a patient population that is at least 50 percent members of a federally recognized Indian tribe. Prioritizes applicants who are members of Oregon's nine federally recognized Indian tribes, and then Oregon residents who are members of federally recognized tribes. Requires recipients who do not fulfill the terms of their agreement to repay the amount of the scholarship. Requires recipients to serve at a tribal service site one year for each year of the scholarship received. Appropriates an unspecified amount of money to HECC for the scholarship program. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2017.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for health care providers
- Educational barriers
- Possible amendments

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Clarifies that qualifying degree programs are those programs offered at Oregon Health and Science University. Defines tribal service site as either a health care facility located on a federally recognized reservation in Oregon or a health care facility located in Oregon serving a patient population that is at least 50 percent members of a federally recognized Indian tribe. Prioritizes applicants who are members of Oregon's nine federally recognized Indian tribes, and then Oregon residents who are members of federally recognized tribes. Removes the 10 percent penalty for scholarship recipients who do not fulfill the terms of their agreement. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2017.

BACKGROUND:

Nine federally recognized tribes are located in Oregon. Tribal members can receive health care at clinics and hospitals operated by tribal governments or by the Indian Health Service. There are 14 facilities throughout the state. Senate Bill 911-A provides scholarships to prospective health care providers that are members of federally recognized tribes.