

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 4035

79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2018 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to provide tuition assistance for qualified members of Oregon National Guard to attend community colleges or public universities.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), Oregon Military Department (OMD)

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

The measure requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to provide tuition assistance to undergraduate members of the Oregon National Guard who have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher. Tuition assistance must be for a maximum of 70 credit hours at an Oregon community college or 120 credit hours at an Oregon public university. Tuition assistance provided by scholarships, financial aid, and the HECC, must pay for 100% of the resident tuition charges for which the qualified student is enrolled.

The fiscal impact of this legislation is indeterminate at this time because the bill does not address if the HECC tuition payments, which are to be made “in addition to any other scholarship or financial assistance”, are based on the difference between the financial aid for which a student qualifies for (i.e. federal student loans) or the financial aid for which the student actually accepts. Furthermore, the bill does not address how these HECC tuition payments will be prioritized in relation to other state funded financial aid such as Oregon Promise or the Oregon Opportunity Grant; and therefore the impact to those programs is also indeterminate at this time. The bill does not include an appropriation section and does not include language where the funding for such tuition assistance is to come from. The HECC will incur costs associated with rulemaking, and staffing the program as well as potential costs associated with the tracking and reporting of the number of student credits, which may require modifications to existing computer systems or an entirely new build.

The measure is anticipated to have an impact on the HECC and a more complete fiscal analysis on the measure will be prepared as the measure is considered in the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.