

**HB 4014 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Rep. Doherty

**House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development**

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**Action Date:** 02/06/18

**Action:** Do Pass.

**Vote:** 9-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 9 - Alonso Leon, Bynum, Clem, Heard, Noble, Reardon, Reschke, Sollman, Whisnant

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Laura Kentnesse, LPRO Analyst

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Removes requirement that current or former foster children must complete volunteer service hours to qualify for a tuition waiver at public community colleges and universities. Applies to tuition waivers granted for the 2019-2020 and subsequent academic years.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Barriers to postsecondary enrollment and completion for foster youth
- Insufficient tracking of student volunteer service hours
- Few colleges have established mentoring centers since 2011

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Under ORS 350.300, current and former foster youth are eligible to receive a waiver of tuition and fees at public institutions of higher education if they are under 25 years of age, enrolled as an undergraduate student, have submitted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for the academic year, and have completed a minimum of 30 volunteer service hours in the previous academic year. The legislature enacted the tuition waiver law in 2011 (House Bill 3471), and specified that volunteer service hours should consist of community service activities such as mentoring foster youth or assisting in the provision of peer support service activities. According to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and Department of Human Services, tracking and validation of student volunteer service hours has been inconsistent across institutions.

House Bill 4014 would remove the requirement that current or former foster children must complete volunteer service hours to qualify for a tuition waiver at public community colleges and universities.