SB 859 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By:	Tamara Dykeman, LPRO Analyst
Sub-Referral To:	Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Meeting Dates:	3/20, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits students who qualify for tuition equity to pay in-state tuition and fees for graduate programs at Oregon public universities. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of tuition equity
- Effectiveness of tuition equity provisions
- Federal solutions for issue
- Number of undergraduate students who qualify for tuition equity
- Difficulties of balancing school and work demands
- Undocumented student retention rates
- Cost of graduate school
- Difficulty working as a graduate assistant if also working full-time
- Intent of original legislation

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2013, the legislature passed House Bill 2782 permitting undergraduate students who are not citizens or lawful permanent residents to pay in-state tuition and fees at Oregon public universities. To qualify, an undergraduate student must attend an Oregon elementary or high school for three years immediately prior to graduating or leaving school without a diploma, attend an elementary or high school in the United States or territory five years immediately prior to graduating or leaving school without a diploma, earn an Oregon high school diploma or equivalent, and demonstrate intent to become a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission reports that in the 2017-2018 school year, approximately 250 undergraduate students qualified for in-state tuition and fees under tuition equity provisions. Senate Bill 859 extends in-state tuition and fees to graduate students who meet the same requirements.

PRELIMINARY