SB 859 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

Prepared By: Alethia Miller, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 5/6, 5/13

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. Applies to tuition charged on or after effective date. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Original intention of HB 2782 (2013)
- Impact of legislation on graduate student education

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 2782 (2013) permits undergraduate students who are not citizens or lawful permanent residents to pay in-state tuition and fees at Oregon public universities, known as tuition equity. In order to qualify for tuition equity 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 U.S. territory for 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