

HB 2571 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Doherty

House Committee On Education

Action Date: 04/01/19

Action: Do pass and rescind subsequent referral to Ways and Means.

Vote: 8-0-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Alonso Leon, Doherty, Helt, Neron, Reardon, Reschke, Sollman, Wallan

Exc: 1 - Hernandez

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Alethia Miller, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/27, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows current or former foster children under 25 years of age to be eligible for tuition waiver if enrolled in courses totaling one or more credit hours at an institution of higher education and pursuing undergraduate degree. Applies to tuition and fee waivers granted for 2019-2020 academic year. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Creating assurances to require children have access to tuition waiver
- Creating promotional material relating to waiver
- Number of former foster care students taking advantage of current tuition waiver
- Challenge in providing tuition waiver when unfunded by Legislative Assembly

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 3471 (2011) provided waivers of tuition and fees for students with experience in Oregon's foster care system if enrolled at a public institution of higher education. In order to qualify for the waiver, students must be under 25 years of age, enrolled as an undergraduate student, and have submitted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. According to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, in the 2016-2017 academic year, 51 foster youth received tuition waivers. This number increased from the 2015-2016 academic year, when only 47 foster youth received waivers.

House Bill 2571 would provide a tuition waiver for former foster care children if they enroll in a course totaling one or more credit hours at an institution of higher education and are pursuing their undergraduate degree.