

HB 3015 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Bonham

House Committee On Education

Action Date: 04/01/19

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Alonso Leon, Doherty, Helt, Hernandez, Neron, Reardon, Reschke, Sollman, Wallan

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Alethia Miller, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows an adopted former foster child, under 25 years of age, to have tuition and fees waived if attending an institution of higher education for purposes of pursuing initial undergraduate degree. Defines adopted former foster child as individual who, for a total of six or more months, was ward of court and in legal custody of the Department of Human Services, or an Indian child subject to the Indian Child Welfare Act under jurisdiction of tribal court. Applies to 2019-2020 academic year. Applies to adopted former foster children adopted after January 1, 2012. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impact of measure on universities and colleges and cost associated with waiving tuition
- Indirect impact on the total cost of tuition and fees for all students when waiving specific population

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Changes “former adopted” foster child to “adopted former” foster child.

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 3015 A allows an adopted former foster child, under 25 years of age, to have their tuition and fees waived if they are attending an institution of higher education for the purpose of pursuing their initial undergraduate degree.