

## SB 158 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Education

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**Action Date:** 04/08/19

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

**Vote:** 4-0-1-0

**Yeas:** 4 - Gelser, Heard, Thomsen, Wagner

**Exc:** 1 - Hass

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued

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**Meeting Dates:** 3/13, 4/8

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to collaborate with community colleges and public universities to implement a pilot program to assist Foster Youth Promise students with transitioning from community colleges to public universities. Defines Foster Youth Promise student as a student enrolled in an Oregon community college or public university who is entitled to a waiver of all tuition and fees. Establishes pilot program requirements. Directs HECC to analyze and coordinate existing support programs for Foster Youth Promise students. Requires HECC to provide additional financial support to Foster Youth Promise students through private fund-raising efforts. Establishes Foster Youth Promise Support Program Fund separate from General Fund. Allocates funds from the Administrative Services Economic Development Fund to the Foster Youth Promise Support Program Fund. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Foster youth's low rate of college attendance
- Success of peer support
- Issues with transferring from community college to universities
- Universities that already have centers for foster youth ease the transition

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Requires HECC to collaborate with community colleges and public universities to implement the pilot program. Removes provisions related to issuance of lottery bonds. Allocates funds from the Administrative Services Economic Development Fund to the Foster Youth Promise Support Program Fund.

#### BACKGROUND:

House Bill 3471 (2011) provided current and former foster youth under the age of 25 with a tuition and fee waiver. This waiver applies to all Oregon public two- or four-year higher education institutions. Eligibility requirements include spending at least 180 days in the system before the age of 16. Additionally, recipients must perform 30 hours of community service annually. During the 2016-2017 school year, 51 Oregon foster youth used the waiver. Of the 51, eight foster youth attended community colleges and 43 attended public universities. The tuition waiver is currently awarded only to students whose financial needs are not fully met through other funding programs. HECC does not track foster youth enrollment. However, as of the 2018-2019 academic year, 192 Oregon foster youth participated in the federal John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program's Educational and Training Vouchers Program for Youths Aging Out of Foster Care, which awards up to \$5,000 per academic year. Of those 192 students, 170 attended public in-state institutions. In 2018, 11,645 children in Oregon spent at least 1 day in the foster care system. Throughout the year, an average of 7,831 children are in foster care daily, and 830 children in foster care are over the age of 18. The Department of Human Services (DHS)

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*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*

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reports that 2,313 youth ages 13-17 were in foster care at some time during 2017. ODE reports a 35 percent high school graduation rate for foster youth. Senate Bill 158 A establishes a pilot project to assist foster youth with college transitions.