Corrected

SB 859 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Dembrow

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date:	04/03/19
Action:	Do pass and subsequent referral to Ways and Means be rescinded.
Vote:	3-1-1-0
Yeas:	3 - Gelser, Hass, Wagner
Nays:	1 - Thomsen
Exc:	1 - Heard
Fiscal:	No fiscal impact
Revenue:	No revenue impact
Prepared By:	Tamara Dykeman, LPRO Analyst
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
- College retention rates for undocumented students
- Cost of graduate school
- Difficulty of working as a graduate assistant if also working full-time
- Intent of original legislation

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2013, the Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 2787, which permitted undergraduate students who are not citizens or lawful permanent residents to pay in-state tuition and fees at Oregon public universities. These students' ability to pay in-state tuition and fees is commonly referred to as tuition equity. 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 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.