

House Bill 3015

Sponsored by Representative BONHAM (at the request of Oregon Foster Families First)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Permits former adopted foster children to have amount of tuition and all fees waived if attending defined institutions of higher education for purposes of pursuing initial undergraduate degree. Defines "former adopted foster child."

Permits former adopted foster children previously ineligible for waiver of tuition due to being adopted to be eligible for waiver if adoption occurred on or after January 1, 2012.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to amount paid to attend institutions of higher education by persons formerly in adoptive
3 care; creating new provisions; amending ORS 350.300; and declaring an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 350.300, as amended by section 1, chapter 12, Oregon Laws 2018, is amended
6 to read:

7 350.300. (1) Notwithstanding ORS 341.290, 352.105 or 353.050, a current foster child *[or]*, former
8 foster child **or former adopted foster child** under 25 years of age who enrolls in an institution of
9 higher education as an undergraduate student shall have the amount of tuition and all fees levied
10 against the student waived if attending an institution of higher education for purposes of pursuing
11 an initial undergraduate degree.

12 (2) A student who is a current foster child *[or]*, former foster child **or former adopted foster**
13 **child** is entitled to waiver of tuition and all fees under subsection (1) of this section until the student
14 has received the equivalent of four years of undergraduate education.

15 (3) As a condition of receiving a tuition waiver for an academic year, a current foster child
16 *[or]*, former foster child **or former adopted foster child** must complete and submit the Free Ap-
17 plication for Federal Student Aid for that academic year.

18 (4) A waiver of tuition and all fees under subsection (1) of this section may be reduced by the
19 amount of any federal aid scholarships or grants, an award from the Oregon Opportunity Grant
20 program established under ORS 348.205 and any other aid received from the institution of higher
21 education. For the purposes of this subsection, "federal aid scholarships or grants" does not include
22 Chafee Education and Training Grant vouchers (P.L. 107-133).

23 (5) As used in this section:

24 (a) **"Former adopted foster child" means an individual who, for a total of six or more**
25 **months, was:**

26 (A) **A ward of the court pursuant to ORS 419B.100 (1)(b) to (e) and in the legal custody**
27 **of the Department of Human Services for out-of-home placement prior to becoming an**
28 **adopted child; or**

29 (B) **An Indian child subject to the Indian Child Welfare Act (25 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.) and**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **under the jurisdiction of a tribal court for out-of-home placement prior to becoming an**
2 **adopted child.**

3 [(a)] (b) “Former foster child” means an individual who, for a total of six or more months while
4 between 14 and 21 years of age, was:

5 (A) A ward of the court pursuant to ORS 419B.100 (1)(b) to (e), in the legal custody of the De-
6 partment of Human Services for out-of-home placement and not dismissed from care before reaching
7 16 years of age; or

8 (B) An Indian child subject to the Indian Child Welfare Act (25 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.), under the
9 jurisdiction of a tribal court for out-of-home placement and not dismissed from care before reaching
10 16 years of age.

11 [(b)] (c) “Institution of higher education” means:

12 (A) A public university listed in ORS 352.002;

13 (B) A community college operated under ORS chapter 341; or

14 (C) The Oregon Health and Science University.

15 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 350.300 by section 1 of this 2019 Act first apply to**
16 **the 2019-2020 academic year.**

17 **SECTION 3. (1) A former adopted foster child who enrolls in an institution of higher ed-**
18 **ucation as an undergraduate student is eligible to have the amount of tuition and all fees**
19 **levied against the student waived in the manner set forth in ORS 350.300 if the former**
20 **adopted foster child became an adopted child on or after January 1, 2012.**

21 **(2) Nothing in this section authorizes or requires an institution of higher education to**
22 **reimburse a former adopted foster child for tuition or fees previously paid to the institution.**

23 **(3) As used in this section, “former adopted foster child” and “institution of higher edu-**
24 **cation” have the meanings given those terms in ORS 350.300.**

25 **SECTION 4. This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
26 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect**
27 **on its passage.**

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