

Senate Bill 811

Sponsored by Senator THATCHER (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**.

Provides tuition and fee remission for natural child of foster parent if natural child attends institution of higher education. Bases remission percentage on aggregate number of years foster parent provided foster home to one or more foster children.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to cost of attending post-secondary institutions of education for natural children of foster
3 parents.

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

5 **SECTION 1. (1) Notwithstanding ORS 341.290, 352.105 or 353.050, a foster parent's natural**
6 **child who enrolls in an institution of higher education as an undergraduate student shall**
7 **have a percentage of the tuition and all fees levied against the student waived if attending**
8 **an institution of higher education for purposes of pursuing an initial undergraduate degree.**

9 **(2) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, the percentage of tuition and all**
10 **fees to be waived shall be based on the number of years the foster parent has provided a**
11 **foster home to a foster child in the following manner:**

12 **(a) For less than an aggregate of three years of providing a foster home to a foster child,**
13 **the natural child of a foster parent may not receive any waiver of tuition or fees under this**
14 **section;**

15 **(b) For an aggregate of at least three years but less than five years of providing a foster**
16 **home to a foster child, one natural child of a foster parent shall receive a waiver of 30 per-**
17 **cent of tuition and all fees for four years of undergraduate education;**

18 **(c) For an aggregate of at least five years but less than seven years of providing a foster**
19 **home to a foster child, one natural child of a foster parent shall receive a waiver of 50 per-**
20 **cent of tuition and all fees for four years of undergraduate education;**

21 **(d) For an aggregate of at least 7 years but less than 10 years of providing a foster home**
22 **to a foster child, one natural child of a foster parent shall receive a waiver of 70 percent of**
23 **tuition and all fees for four years of undergraduate education; and**

24 **(e) For an aggregate of 10 or more years of providing a foster home to a foster child, one**
25 **natural child of a foster parent shall receive a waiver of a percentage of tuition and all fees**
26 **for four years of undergraduate education that is equal to 10 times the total aggregate**
27 **number of whole years the foster parent provided a home to a foster child.**

28 **(3) In making the calculations under subsection (2) of this section:**

29 **(a) Each year a foster child spends with a foster family counts as one year regardless**
30 **of the number of foster parents in the foster family.**

31 **(b) The aggregate number of years a foster parent provides a foster home to a foster**

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 child is calculated by adding the amount of time that each foster child is provided with a
2 foster home by the foster parent.

3 (c) A foster parent may elect how to allocate the waiver of tuition and all fees calculated
4 under subsection (2) of this section among multiple natural children, such that if a foster
5 parent with three natural children has provided a foster home to a foster child for 12 years,
6 the foster parent could elect for one natural child to receive a 50 percent waiver of tuition
7 and all fees for four years, one natural child to receive a 45 percent waiver of tuition and
8 all fees for four years and one natural child to receive a 25 percent waiver of tuition and all
9 fees for four years.

10 (4) As a condition of receiving the waiver of a percentage of tuition and all fees under
11 this section, the natural child of a foster parent must complete and submit the Free Appli-
12 cation for Federal Student Aid for each academic year, if eligible to file the application.

13 (5) Notwithstanding subsections (2) and (3) of this section:

14 (a) A single natural child of a foster parent may not receive a waiver of tuition and all
15 fees that is greater than 100 percent.

16 (b) The waiver of a percentage of tuition and all fees under this section may be reduced
17 by any amount of federal aid scholarships or grants, an award from the Oregon Opportunity
18 Grant program established under ORS 348.205 and any other aid received from the institution
19 of higher education, such that the total amount received by any one natural child of a foster
20 parent does not exceed a waiver of 100 percent of tuition and all fees.

21 (6)(a) The Department of Human Services shall keep detailed records indicating the per-
22 centage of a waiver of tuition and all fees the natural children of a foster parent are entitled
23 to under this section. These records shall be updated annually.

24 (b) An institution of higher education may require proof that a natural child of a foster
25 parent is eligible for the waiver of a percentage of tuition and all fees under this section.
26 Upon request by the institution, and affirmative permission granted by the foster parent, the
27 department shall provide the institution with the information described in paragraph (a) of
28 this subsection.

29 (7) The department may adopt rules necessary to implement this section.

30 (8) As used in this section, "institution of higher education" has the meaning given that
31 term in ORS 350.300.

32