

## HB 4099 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Education

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**Action Date:** 02/12/20

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.  
(Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 7-0-2-0

**Yeas:** 7 - Alonso Leon, Doherty, Helt, Hernandez, Neron, Reardon, Sollman

**Exc:** 2 - Bonham, Wallan

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued

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**Meeting Dates:** 2/10, 2/12

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits students who are Compact of Free Association (COFA) islanders, refugees, or special immigrant visa holders to qualify for in-state tuition and fees at a public university if they have not established residency in another U.S. state or territory. Defines COFA islander, refugee, and special immigrant visa holder. Allows public universities that enroll certain number of COFA students to receive mission differentiation funding in the public university support fund distribution formula provided by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. Applies to 2020-2021 academic year. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of measure

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Allows public universities that enroll certain number of COFA students to receive mission differentiation funding in the public university support fund distribution formula provided by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

#### BACKGROUND:

The Compact of Free Association (COFA) is an international agreement between the United States and the Republic of Palau, the Republic of Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia. Under the COFA agreement, citizens of these nations may work in the U.S. as nonimmigrants for an unlimited length of time. A refugee is a person who is granted refugee status for admission to the United States by U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services. A special immigrant visa holder is a person from Iraq or Afghanistan who is provided the status of special immigrant by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security under the 2006 National Defense Authorization Act, the 2007 Refugee Crisis in Iraq Act, or the 2009 Afghan Allies Protection Act.

House Bill 4099 would allow students who are COFA islanders, refugees, or special immigrant visa holders to receive in-state tuition and fees, as opposed to out-of-state tuition and fees.