

# DRAFT

## SUMMARY

Modifies definition of “former foster child” for purposes of tuition and fee waiver program, Oregon Opportunity Grant program and foster child scholarship program.

### A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to foster children attending institution of higher education; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 350.300.

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

**SECTION 1.** ORS 350.300, as amended by section 2, chapter 42, Oregon Laws 2022, is amended to read:

350.300. (1) Notwithstanding ORS 341.290, 352.105 or 353.050, a student who is a current foster child or former foster child or a current homeless youth or former homeless youth, under 25 years of age and enrolled in courses totaling one or more credit hours at an institution of higher education as an undergraduate student shall have the amount of tuition and all fees levied against the student waived if attending an institution of higher education for purposes of pursuing an initial undergraduate degree.

(2) A student is entitled to waiver of tuition and all fees under subsection (1) of this section until the student has received the equivalent of four years of undergraduate education.

(3) As a condition of receiving a tuition waiver for an academic year, the student must complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for that academic year.

(4) A waiver of tuition and all fees under subsection (1) of this section

1 may be reduced by the amount of any federal aid scholarships or grants, an  
2 award from the Oregon Opportunity Grant program established under ORS  
3 348.205 and any other aid received from the institution of higher education.  
4 For the purposes of this subsection, “federal aid scholarships or grants” does  
5 not include Chafee Educational and Training Voucher Program grants under  
6 42 U.S.C. 677.

7 (5) As used in this section:

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

10 (A) A ward of the court pursuant to ORS 419B.100 (1)(b) to (e), in the  
11 legal custody of the Department of Human Services for out-of-home place-  
12 ment [*and not dismissed from care before reaching 16 years of age*]; or

13 (B) An Indian child subject to ORS 419B.600 to 419B.654, under the ju-  
14 risdiction of a tribal court for out-of-home placement [*and not dismissed from*  
15 *care before reaching 16 years of age*].

16 (b) “Homeless youth” means a person who:

17 (A) Experienced homelessness for a total of six or more months while  
18 between 14 and 24 years of age;

19 (B) While experiencing homelessness as described in subparagraph (A) of  
20 this paragraph, received services from an organization contracted by the  
21 Department of Human Services to provide services to homeless persons or  
22 from a host home, as defined by the department by rule; and

23 (C) Was at least 16 years of age when the person last received the services  
24 described in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph.

25 (c) “Institution of higher education” means:

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

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

28 (C) The Oregon Health and Science University.

29 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 350.300 by section 1 of this**  
30 **2023 Act apply to tuition and fees assessed on or after the effective**  
31 **date of this 2023 Act.**

