

## **SB 101 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management**

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**Prepared By:** Cassie Passon, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 5/6, 5/18

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Modifies eligibility requirements and amounts for educational grants available to members of Oregon National Guard. Modifies definition of "qualified student" by requiring student to accept all available federal military assistance grants instead of all state and federal aid grants. Adds fees and book allowance to potential grant amount. Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) prior to start of each fall term, to determine whether enough funds are available to award grants to each eligible person. Allows HECC to impose limits on eligibility, reduce or remove previously imposed limits on eligibility, or reduce grant amounts to each recipient. First applies to tuition assistance provided for the 2021-22 academic year.

*Senate Votes: Ayes, 26; Nays, 4--Heard, Linthicum, Robinson, Thatcher.*

*REVENUE: No revenue impact*

*FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued*

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Oregon National Guard tuition assistance established in House Bill 4035 (2018)
- Tuition assistance to be used at public and private institutions
- Tuition assistance program in line with what other states offer
- Recruiting and retention tool
- Order of acceptance of assistance
- Recent award amounts
- Restructure of assistance amounts for equitable distribution
- Ease of application process
- Space Force's mission's effect on Oregon's Air National Guard
- Additional funding ask in Senate Bill 5528

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

According to the Office of Student Access and Completion website, the purpose of the Oregon National Guard State Assistance Program is to provide funding for undergraduate tuition, at in-state residency rates at eligible Oregon post-secondary institutions for current Oregon National Guard Members. The program was established in 2017 and has issued roughly \$1.1 million in assistance to 679 service members of the Oregon National Guard.

Senate Bill 101 A modifies the eligibility requirements and grant amounts for educational grants to members of the Oregon National Guard. The measure also allows the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to modify eligibility requirements or decrease grant amounts based on the availability of funding.