

Legislative Fiscal Office

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Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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To: Education Subcommittee

From: Tim Walker, Legislative Fiscal Office

Date: June 8, 2021

Subject: SB 553 - Relating to higher education tuition
Work Session Recommendations

This measure would exempt students who are Compact of Free Association (COFA) islanders and students with refugee or special immigrant visas from paying nonresident tuition and fees at public universities in Oregon, provided that they have not previously established a residence in any other state or territory of the United States (US) or District of Columbia. COFA islanders include those who legally entered the US under the Compact of Free Association treaty between the US and the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia. The bill also extends eligibility for scholarships and other aid offered by public universities and state-funded grants to these students. The number of students eligible for state-funded grants is expected to minimally increase, though this would increase the demand for programs that are currently at or above capacity. The measure also directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to allocate funding equal to the difference in resident and nonresident tuition and fees for each qualified COFA islander enrolled at Eastern Oregon University.

The -A3 amendment appropriates \$1,071,544 General Fund to Higher Education Coordinating Commission for the purposes of the bill.

Recommended Changes

LFO recommends adoption of the -A3 amendment.

Final Subcommittee Action

LFO recommends that SB 553, as amended by the -A3 amendment, to be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee.

Carriers

Full Committee: _____

House Floor: _____

Senate Floor: _____