

HB 3565 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education

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Meeting Dates: 3/21, 3/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Oregon Tribal Student Grant program in Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Requires HECC to award initial grant to each qualified tribal student and to award renewal grant if student continues to make satisfactory academic progress in eligible program. Prohibits qualified tribal student from receiving grants for total of more than five years full-time enrollment at undergraduate level, total of more than three years full-time enrollment in eligible non-degree programs, or total of more than three years full-time enrollment at undergraduate level. Sets award amount for student enrolled at public institution at cost of education, as determined by institution, reduced by amount of aid grants and scholarships available to qualified tribal student. Sets award amount for student enrolled in non-public eligible institution at highest cost of education at equivalent public institution, as determined by HECC, reduced by amount of aid grants and scholarships available to qualified tribal student. Requires HECC to prioritize students enrolled in eligible master's degree program when awarding grants to qualified tribal students who have received bachelor's degree. Permits HECC to award full or partial grants to qualified tribal students enrolled in professional or doctoral degree program if sufficient funds remain after awarding grants to students enrolled in undergraduate and master's degree programs. Prohibits amount awarded to qualified tribal student enrolled in eligible master's degree, professional degree, doctoral degree, or other eligible degree program from exceeding highest undergraduate cost of education at public university. Requires HECC to prorate grants awarded to qualified tribal students enrolled in eligible program more than half time but less than full time. Prohibits HECC from including specified grants, scholarships, education benefits, and loans in calculation of aid available to qualified tribal students. Permits HECC, in case of insufficient funds, to establish method for prioritizing qualified tribal students or to limit eligibility to receive grant. Requires HECC to report to Legislative Commission on Indian Services and Government-to-Government Tribal Education Cluster by September 1 of each even-numbered year and each time HECC seeks to alter calculation of award amount. Establishes Oregon Tribal Student Grant Fund in State Treasury for purpose of providing grants under program. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Continuing one-time funding for students already enrolled
- Expanding higher education options for tribal students

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Students must be an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe in Oregon in order to qualify for the Oregon Tribal Student Grant. There are nine federally recognized tribes in the state: the Burns Paiute of Harney County; the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians; the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde; the Confederated Tribes of Siletz; the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Reservation; the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians; the Coquille Indian Tribe; and the Klamath Tribes.

The Oregon Tribal Student Grant was created through a \$19 million special purpose appropriation to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) in [House Bill 5202 \(2022\)](#). In its 2022 [May Agency Update](#), HECC

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announced that students had started 286 applications for the Oregon Student Tribal Grant and that the agency estimated that the program would be able to serve 700 or more students in the 2022-2023 academic year.

House Bill 3565 codifies the Oregon Tribal Student Grant program and establishes the Oregon Tribal Student Grant Fund.

PRELIMINARY