

**SB 263 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Education**

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**Meeting Dates:** 3/11

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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, scholarships, and financial aid from Oregon's public universities. Defines COFA islander, refugee, and special immigrant visa holder. Requires students to have attended Oregon schools and received an Oregon diploma or equivalent to qualify for in-state assistance. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**REVENUE:** May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

**FISCAL:** May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Compact of Free Association (COFA) is an international agreement between 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 COFA student is a person who legally entered the United States under the COFA treaty. A refugee is a person who is granted refugee status for admission to the United States by immigration services. A special immigrant is a person who qualifies for permanent residence under the U.S. special immigrant program. To qualify for this program, an individual must meet specific eligibility criteria, such as serving as an interpreter for the U.S. government.

In 2018-19, the average undergraduate tuition and fees for public universities was \$10,111 (in-state) and \$27,860 (nonresident).