

HB 3015 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 5/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits an adopted former foster child to receive tuition and fee waivers if attending an Oregon institution of higher education as an undergraduate student. Defines adopted former foster child as an individual who, for six months or more, was a ward of the court and in the legal custody of Department of Humans Services or an Indian child subject to the Indian Welfare Act and under the jurisdiction of a tribal court for out-of-home placement prior to becoming an adopted child. Applies to foster children adopted on or after January 1, 2012. Declares that an institution of higher education is not required to reimburse an adopted former foster child for tuition or fees previously paid to the institution. First applies to the 2019-2020 academic year. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2017, 11,645 children in Oregon spent at least one day in the foster care system. Throughout the year, an average of 7,831 children are in foster care daily, and 830 children in foster care are over the age of 18. DHS reports that 2,313 youth ages 13-17 were in foster care at some time during 2017. In 2011, the legislature passed House Bill 3471, which provided current and former foster youth under the age of 25 with a tuition and fee waiver. This waiver applies to community colleges, public universities, and the Oregon Health and Science University. To qualify, a current or former foster child must be under the age of 25 and must submit an application for federal financial aid. The recipient is eligible to receive waivers of up to the equivalent of four years of undergraduate education. The amount of the tuition waiver may be reduced by the amount of the student's other state or federal financial aid. During the 2016-2017 school year, 51 Oregon foster youth used the waiver. Of the 51, eight foster youth attended community colleges and 43 attended public universities. House Bill 3015 A extends this tuition and fee waiver to former foster children who have been adopted.