

House Bill 2571

Sponsored by Representative DOHERTY (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Provides that current or former foster child under 25 years of age is eligible for tuition waiver at institution of higher education if current or former foster child is enrolled in courses totaling one or more credit hours for purposes of pursuing initial undergraduate degree.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to higher education tuition waivers for foster children; creating new provisions; amending
3 ORS 350.300; and declaring an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 350.300, as amended by section 1, chapter 12, Oregon Laws 2018, is amended
6 to read:

7 350.300. (1) Notwithstanding ORS 341.290, 352.105 or 353.050, a current foster child or former
8 foster child under 25 years of age who [*enrolls in*] **is enrolled in courses totaling one or more**
9 **credit hours at** an institution of higher education as an undergraduate student shall have the
10 amount of tuition and all fees levied against the student waived if attending an institution of higher
11 education for purposes of pursuing an initial undergraduate degree.

12 (2) A student who is a current foster child or former foster child is entitled to waiver of tuition
13 and all fees under subsection (1) of this section until the student has received the equivalent of four
14 years of undergraduate education.

15 (3) As a condition of receiving a tuition waiver for an academic year, a current foster child or
16 former foster child must complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for that
17 academic year.

18 (4) A waiver of tuition and all fees under subsection (1) of this section may be reduced by the
19 amount of any federal aid scholarships or grants, an award from the Oregon Opportunity Grant
20 program established under ORS 348.205 and any other aid received from the institution of higher
21 education. For the purposes of this subsection, "federal aid scholarships or grants" does not include
22 Chafee Education and Training Grant vouchers (P.L. 107-133).

23 (5) As used in this section:

24 (a) "Former foster child" means an individual who, for a total of six or more months while be-
25 tween 14 and 21 years of age, was:

26 (A) A ward of the court pursuant to ORS 419B.100 (1)(b) to (e), in the legal custody of the De-
27 partment of Human Services for out-of-home placement and not dismissed from care before reaching
28 16 years of age; or

29 (B) An Indian child subject to the Indian Child Welfare Act (25 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.), under the
30 jurisdiction of a tribal court for out-of-home placement and not dismissed from care before reaching

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 16 years of age.

2 (b) "Institution of higher education" means:

3 (A) A public university listed in ORS 352.002;

4 (B) A community college operated under ORS chapter 341; or

5 (C) The Oregon Health and Science University.

6 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 350.300 by section 1 of this 2019 Act apply to tuition**
7 **and fee waivers granted for the 2019-2020 academic year.**

8 **SECTION 3. This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
9 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect**
10 **on its passage.**

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