

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SB 553

Relating to higher education tuition

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Education Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Hansell

SB 553 would exempt students who are Compact of Free Association, or COFA, islanders and students with refugee or special immigrant visas from paying nonresident tuition and fees at public universities in Oregon.

COFA islanders include those who legally entered the U.S. under the Compact of Free Association treaty between the United States 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 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 Education Subcommittee recommends SB 553 be amended by the -A3 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.