

SB 101 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Riley

Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Action Date: 03/18/21

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 4-0-1-0

Yeas: 4 - Burdick, Findley, Riley, Wagner

Exc: 1 - Boquist

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Chris Allanach, Legislative Revenue Officer

Meeting Dates: 2/23, 3/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies the eligibility requirements and amounts for educational grants available to members of the Oregon National Guard. Modifies the definition of "qualified student" by requiring the student to accept available military assistance grants instead of all state and federal aid grants. Adds fees and a book allowance to the potential grant amount. Enables the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to determine whether enough funds are available to award grants and take appropriate action, including adjusting grant amounts. First applies to tuition assistance provided for the 2021-22 academic year.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Established in 2017 and initial years of program operation
- Roughly \$1.1 million in assistance has been issued to 679 service members of the Oregon National Guard
- Program value for recruitment and retention

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Adds language to enable the commission to determine whether enough funds are available to award grants and take appropriate action, including adjusting grant amounts.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Office of Student Access and Completion website, the purpose of the Oregon National Guard State Assistance Program is to provide funding for undergraduate tuition, at in-state residency rates at eligible Oregon post-secondary institutions for current Oregon National Guard Members. The program was established in 2017 and has issued roughly \$1.1 million in assistance to 679 service members of the Oregon National Guard.