

SB 101 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Grayber

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management

Action Date: 05/18/21

Action: Do Pass the A-Eng bill.

Vote: 6-0-0-0

Yeas: 6 - Evans, Grayber, Lewis, Meek, Wallan, Wright

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Cassie Passon, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 5/6, 5/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies definition of "qualified student" to require members of Oregon National Guard to accept all federal military tuition assistance grants available instead of all state and federal aid. Adds fee and book allowance to potential grant amount. Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to determine whether enough funds are available to award grants to each eligible person prior to start of each fall term. Allows HECC to adjust eligibility requirements and grant amounts. Applies to tuition assistance beginning with 2021-2022 academic year.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Oregon National Guard tuition assistance established in House Bill 4035 (2018)
- Use of tuition assistance at public and private institutions
- Consistency with tuition assistance in other states
- Recruiting and retention tool
- Order of acceptance of assistance
- Recent award amounts
- Equitable distribution
- Application process
- Space Force's missions effect on Oregon's Air National Guard
- Funding request in Senate Bill 5528 (2021)

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2018 the Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 4035 to require the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to provide full resident tuition assistance at qualifying in-state post-secondary institutions for eligible members of the Oregon National Guard enrolled in undergraduate programs. The measure took effect with the 2017-2019 biennium and has issued approximately \$1.1 million for tuition to 679 service members in the Oregon National Guard.

Senate Bill 101 A modifies eligibility requirements and grant amounts for tuition assistance for members of the Oregon National Guard. The measure also allows HECC to adjust eligibility requirements and grant amounts based on the availability of funding to achieve more equitable distribution.