

**SB 449 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Education**

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**Prepared By:** Ellen O'Brien, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/28, 4/4

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Extends eligibility for tuition and fee waiver at public institutions of higher education to adopted former foster child. Defines adopted former foster child as individual who was in foster care for total of six or more months prior to adoption. First applies expanded eligibility in 2023-2024 academic year. Specifies that eligibility is limited to adopted former foster children adopted after January 1, 2012. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Youth choosing between adoption and higher education

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Under ORS 350.300, tuition and fees are currently waived for current and former foster children as well as current and former homeless youth. A "former foster child" is eligible for a tuition and fee waiver if they were: 1) in foster care for at least 6 months between the ages of 14 and 21, and 2) did not leave foster care prior to age 16. This definition currently limits the eligibility of former foster children who are adopted before the age of 16.

Senate Bill 449 extends tuition and fee waivers at public institutions of higher education to adopted children who were in foster care for at least six months prior to adoption.