

HB 2441 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

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Meeting Dates: 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure changes existing tuition waivers for children and spouses of veterans who are deceased, disabled, or Purple Heart recipients by granting each eligible student the full value of the tuition waiver. This change would require public universities to waive the full cost of tuition and fees for eligible students and pay out all other financial aid directly to the student.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The state of Oregon provides tuition waivers for specific student groups, including the children and spouses of military service members who are deceased, disabled, or Purple Heart recipients ([ORS 350.285](#)) and former foster children and former homeless youth ([ORS 350.300](#)). Dependents of deceased or disabled service members and Purple Heart recipients must be Oregon residents, and children must be 23 years old or younger, in order to be eligible. Tuition waivers are available only at Oregon public universities while earning both a baccalaureate degree and a master's degree.

Under current law, these tuition waivers are "last dollar," meaning they cover the difference between financial aid and the actual cost of tuition for an eligible student. Any tuition and fees remaining after accounting for financial aid are not collected by the institution. If House Bill 2441 were to pass, tuition waivers for the dependents of these service members would become "first dollar," meaning that institutions would waive all tuition and fees and pay out all other financial aid directly to the student.

In the case of this particular tuition waiver, ORS 350.285 allows students who receive the waiver to collect the federal [Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance \(DEA\)](#) without reducing their tuition waiver.