

HB 3920 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

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Meeting Dates: 3/25, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure modifies the tuition waiver available for dependents of disabled or deceased service members and Purple Heart recipients. It raises the age by which a dependent child can apply for the waiver from 23 to 31 and allows an exemption to the age limit for anyone qualifying for the federal Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) program. The measure takes effect on the 91st day after adjournment sine die.

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

Revenue impact: 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 can be "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. ORS 350.285 allows students to collect the federal [Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance \(DEA\)](#) without reducing their tuition waiver.