

SB 668 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs

Action Date: 02/18/25

Action: Without recommendation as to passage and request referral to Ways and Means.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Manning Jr, Meek, Smith DB, Thatcher, Woods

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/6, 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure reduces the disability requirement for higher education tuition waivers for service members from 100 to 80 percent disabled and expands the waiver to community colleges, vocational programs, and associate's degrees. It prohibits the amount of tuition waived from being reduced by specified aid, awards, grants, and scholarships. It declares an emergency and is effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Number of people who would be affected
- Financial cost of the change
- Funding sources

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Existing statute permits eligible public universities to waive tuition for specified groups.

The USDVA pays monthly [disability benefits](#) to qualifying veterans. The amount is based on a disability rating, which is calculated based on the severity of the condition. The rating is expressed as a percentage representing how much the disability decreases overall health and ability to function.

Senate Bill 668 reduces the disability requirement for these benefits from 100 to 80 percent disabled and expands the waiver to community colleges, vocational programs, and associate's degrees.