

## SB 738 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Education

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**Action Date:** 04/09/25

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

**Vote:** 4-1-0-0

**Yeas:** 4 - Frederick, Gelser Blouin, Sollman, Weber

**Nays:** 1 - Robinson

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Chris Bechtel, LPRO Fellow

**Meeting Dates:** 4/2, 4/9

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure modifies the tuition waiver eligibility age limit from 25 to 40 for a current, former, or adopted foster child and a current or former homeless person. It modifies the definition of former foster child to include individuals who have six or more months of foster experience between the ages of 10 and 21.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure
- Experiences of foster youth

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment modifies the definition of a former foster child to include foster children who have foster experience of six or more months from the age of 10 to 21.

#### BACKGROUND:

Since the passage of [House Bill 3471 \(2011\)](#), public institutions of higher education have been required to waive tuition and fees for current or former foster children under 25 years of age. 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 in foster care for at least six months between the ages of 14 and 21 and did not leave foster care prior to age 16. This definition currently denies eligibility to former foster children who were adopted before the age of 16. In 2023, [Senate Bill 449](#) extended the tuition and fee waiver to adopted children who were in foster care for at least six months prior to adoption.