

HB 3954 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Bonham

Senate Committee On Rules

Minority Report

Action Date: 06/25/25

Action: Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.) Minority

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Report Signers: Sen. Hayden, Sen. Bonham

Prepared By: Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 6/24, 6/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure establishes a tuition assistance program, through the Office of Student Access and Completion, for eligible dependents of members and retired members of the Oregon National Guard, and establishes eligibility criteria. It adds members of the Oregon National Guard who are on active duty to the Veterans Dental Program, establishes eligibility criteria, and appropriates five million dollars to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out of the General Fund, for providing this care. It also declares an emergency and is effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure and of the amendment
- The history of the National Guard

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon National Guard consists of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard, each of which is capable of performing both state and federal functions. Members can be called upon to respond to state-level incidents and natural disasters, and members can also be deployed to support missions of or augment forces of the United States Armed Forces.

The Adjutant General is appointed by the Governor for a four-year term or until relieved by reason of resignation, withdrawal of federal recognition, or for cause to be determined by a court-martial. Under current law, a person is eligible for appointment to the office of Adjutant General if the person is an officer of the Oregon National Guard, federally recognized in the grade of lieutenant colonel or higher, and has completed at least six years' service in the Oregon National Guard as a federally recognized officer.

By statute (ORS Chapter 396), the Adjutant General is the Director of the Oregon Military Department, Chief of Staff to the Governor, and Commander of the Oregon National Guard. The Adjutant General is charged with the supervision of all matters pertaining to the administration, discipline, mobilization, organization, and training of the Oregon National Guard.