

House Bill 3534

Sponsored by Representative WRIGHT

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act adds certain schools and hands-on programs to the tuition program for veterans and their children. (Flesch Readability Score: 65.1).

Provides for a waiver of tuition, fees and the cost of textbooks for veterans and the children of veterans from eligible post-secondary institutions. Includes community colleges and apprenticeship programs that are partnered with community colleges as eligible post-secondary institutions. Prohibits the amount of tuition that is waived for qualified students from being reduced by the amount of specified student aid received by the qualified students.

Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to tuition waivers; amending ORS 350.285; and prescribing an effective date.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 350.285 is amended to read:

5 350.285. (1) As used in this section:

6 (a) "Child" means a child, adopted child or stepchild of either a service member or a Purple
7 Heart recipient.

8 (b) "Eligible post-secondary institution" means:

9 (A) A public university listed in ORS 352.002;

10 **(B) A community college operated under ORS chapter 341;**

11 **(C) An apprenticeship program that is registered with the State Apprenticeship and**
12 **Training Council and is partnered with a community college operated under ORS chapter**
13 **341; and**

14 *[(B)]* **(D) The Oregon Health and Science University.**

15 (c) "Purple Heart recipient" means a person, alive or deceased[, *who*]:

16 (A) **Who** was relieved or discharged from service in the Armed Forces of the United States with
17 either an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions; [*and*]

18 (B) **Who** was awarded the Purple Heart in 2001 or thereafter for wounds received in combat[.];

19 **and**

20 **(C) Whose home of record at the time of entry into active duty with the Armed Forces**
21 **of the United States was Oregon, as indicated on a federal DD Form 214 or 215.**

22 (d) "Qualified student" means a child, a spouse or an unremarried surviving spouse of a service
23 member or a child of a Purple Heart recipient.

24 (e) "Service member" means a person who:

25 (A) As a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, died on active duty;

26 (B) As a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, died as a result of a military service
27 connected disability; or

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (C) Is [100] **at least 80** percent disabled as the result of a military service connected disability,
2 as certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or any branch of the Armed Forces
3 of the United States.

4 (2) Subject to subsections (3) to (7) of this section, an eligible post-secondary institution shall
5 waive tuition, **fees and the cost of textbooks** for a qualified student for courses that may lead to
6 **an apprenticeship certificate, an associate degree**, a baccalaureate degree or a master's degree.
7 **A qualified student who received a tuition waiver for an apprenticeship certificate or an as-**
8 **sociate degree may also qualify for a tuition waiver for a baccalaureate degree.** A qualified
9 student who received a tuition waiver for a baccalaureate degree may also qualify for a tuition
10 waiver for a master's degree.

11 (3)(a) The maximum waiver granted under this section shall be as follows:

12 **(A) For apprenticeship courses and certificates and associate degrees, the total number**
13 **of credit hours that equals two years of full-time attendance at an eligible post-secondary**
14 **institution if the qualified student has opted not to accept a grant from the Oregon Promise**
15 **program described in ORS 341.522, if the qualified student is eligible for the grant.**

16 [(A)] **(B) For a baccalaureate degree, the total number of credit hours that equals four years**
17 **of full-time attendance at an eligible post-secondary institution if the baccalaureate degree is**
18 **completed within 10 semesters or 15 terms after initiation of the waiver.**

19 [(B)] **(C) For a master's degree, the total number of credit hours that equals two years of full-**
20 **time attendance at an eligible post-secondary institution if the master's degree is completed**
21 **within six semesters or nine terms after initiation of the waiver.**

22 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection, a waiver may not exceed the total number
23 of credit hours the qualified student needs to graduate with **an apprenticeship certificate, an as-**
24 **sociate degree**, a baccalaureate degree or a master's degree.

25 (4) A waiver may be granted under this section only for credit hours for courses that are offered
26 by an eligible post-secondary institution and are available for enrollment.

27 (5) A qualified student may receive a waiver under this section if the student:

28 (a) At the time of application for a waiver, is considered a resident of this state for the purpose
29 of determining tuition to be paid at an eligible post-secondary institution; and

30 (b) Has been admitted to an eligible post-secondary institution for **an apprenticeship program**
31 **registered with the State Apprenticeship and Training Council, an associate degree program,**
32 a baccalaureate degree program or [*has been admitted to*] a master's degree program [*at an eligible*
33 *post-secondary institution*].

34 (6)(a) A child who applies for a waiver under this section must be [23] **25** years of age or
35 younger at the time the child applies for a waiver.

36 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection, a child who is older than [23] **25** years of
37 age is eligible for a waiver for a master's degree if the child:

38 (A) Applied for and received a waiver for a baccalaureate degree when the child was [23] **25**
39 years of age or younger; and

40 (B) Applied for a waiver for a master's degree within 12 months of receiving a baccalaureate
41 degree.

42 (7)(a) The amount of tuition waived under this section may **not** be reduced by the amount of any
43 federal aid scholarships or grants, awards from the Oregon Opportunity Grant program established
44 under ORS 348.205, or any other aid from the eligible post-secondary institution, received by the
45 qualified student.

1 (b) The amount of tuition waived under this section may not be reduced by the amount of any
2 Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance under 38 U.S.C. chapter 35 paid to a qualified
3 student.

4 **SECTION 2. This 2025 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2025**
5 **regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.**

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