

House Bill 3920

Sponsored by Representatives TRAN, SKARLATOS; Representative HUDSON, Senator MEEK

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 says that certain students may receive free tuition. (Flesch Readability Score: 78.2).

Increases the age limit for tuition waivers for qualified students. Permits a qualified student to receive a tuition waiver for a master's degree notwithstanding whether the qualified student received a waiver for a baccalaureate degree. Removes the requirement that a qualified student apply for a master's degree within 12 months of receiving a baccalaureate degree to receive a tuition waiver for a master's degree. Permits a qualified student to receive a tuition waiver for a master's degree if the student presents proof of eligibility for specified federal assistance.

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

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to waiver of tuition for certain qualified students; amending ORS 350.285; and prescribing
3 an effective date.

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

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

6 350.285. (1) As used in this section:

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

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

10 (A) A public university listed in ORS 352.002; and

11 (B) The Oregon Health and Science University.

12 (c) "Purple Heart recipient" means a person, alive or deceased, who:

13 (A) Was relieved or discharged from service in the Armed Forces of the United States with ei-
14 ther an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions; and

15 (B) Was awarded the Purple Heart in 2001 or thereafter for wounds received in combat.

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

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

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

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

22 (C) Is 100 percent disabled as the result of a military service connected disability, as certified
23 by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or any branch of the Armed Forces of the
24 United States.

25 (2) Subject to subsections (3) to (7) of this section, an eligible post-secondary institution shall
26 waive tuition for a qualified student for courses that may lead to a baccalaureate degree or a
27 master's degree. **Notwithstanding whether** a qualified student [*who*] received a tuition waiver for

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 a baccalaureate degree, **the qualified student** may *[also]* qualify for a tuition waiver for a master's
2 degree.

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

4 (A) For a baccalaureate degree, the total number of credit hours that equals four years of full-
5 time attendance at an eligible post-secondary institution.

6 (B) For a master's degree, the total number of credit hours that equals two years of full-time
7 attendance at an eligible post-secondary institution.

8 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection, a waiver may not exceed the total number
9 of credit hours the qualified student needs to graduate with a baccalaureate degree or a master's
10 degree.

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

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

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

16 (b) Has been admitted to an eligible post-secondary institution for a baccalaureate degree pro-
17 gram or has been admitted to a master's degree program at an eligible post-secondary institution.

18 (6)(a) A child who applies for a waiver under this section must be ~~[23]~~ **31** years of age or
19 younger at the time the child applies for a waiver.

20 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection, a child who is older than ~~[23]~~ **31** years of
21 age is eligible for a waiver for a master's degree if the child:

22 (A) Applied for and received a waiver for a baccalaureate degree when the child was ~~[23]~~ **31**
23 years of age or younger; *[and]* **or**

24 *[(B) Applied for a waiver for a master's degree within 12 months of receiving a baccalaureate de-*
25 *gree.]*

26 **(B) Provides proof of eligibility for the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assist-**
27 **ance program administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs under 38**
28 **U.S.C. chapter 35.**

29 (7)(a) The amount of tuition waived under this section may be reduced by the amount of any
30 federal aid scholarships or grants, awards from the Oregon Opportunity Grant program established
31 under ORS 348.205, or any other aid from the eligible post-secondary institution, received by the
32 qualified student.

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

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