

Senate Bill 659

Sponsored by Senator BONHAM (at the request of Senator Noah Robinson) (Pre-session filed.)

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 keeps a tuition waiver from being reduced by other aid amounts. (Flesch Readability Score: 76.5).

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.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to waiver of tuition; amending ORS 350.285.

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

SECTION 1. ORS 350.285 is amended to read:

350.285. (1) As used in this section:

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

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

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

(B) The Oregon Health and Science University.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(2) Subject to subsections (3) to (7) of this section, an eligible post-secondary institution shall waive tuition for a qualified student for courses that may lead to a baccalaureate degree or a master's degree. A qualified student who received a tuition waiver for a baccalaureate degree may also qualify for a tuition waiver for a master's degree.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 (6)(a) A child who applies for a waiver under this section must be 23 years of age or younger
14 at the time the child applies for a waiver.

15 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection, a child who is older than 23 years of age
16 is eligible for a waiver for a master's degree if the child:

17 (A) Applied for and received a waiver for a baccalaureate degree when the child was 23 years
18 of age or younger; and

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

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

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

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