

CHAPTER 12

AN ACT

HB 4120

Relating to scholarships for children of individuals killed or disabled while providing public safety services; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 348.270.

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

SECTION 1. ORS 348.270 is amended to read:

348.270. (1) In addition to any other scholarships provided by law, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall award scholarships in any public university listed in ORS 352.002, in the Oregon Health and Science University, in any community college operated under ORS chapter 341, or in any Oregon-based regionally accredited independent institution, to any student applying for enrollment or who is enrolled therein, who is:

(a) The natural child, adopted child or stepchild of any public safety officer, **reserve officer or volunteer firefighter** who, in the line of duty, was killed or so disabled, as determined by the Executive Director of the Office of Student Access and Completion, that:

(A) The income of the public safety officer is less than that earned by public safety officers performing duties comparable to those performed at the highest rank or grade attained by the public safety officer; or

(B) **The income of the reserve officer or volunteer firefighter working in their primary profession or type of employment is less than that earned by individuals in the same profession or type of employment with similar levels of education and experience; or**

(b) A current foster child or former foster child who enrolls in an institution of higher education as an undergraduate student not later than three years from the date the student was removed from the care of the Department of Human Services, the date the student graduated from high school or the date the student received the equivalent of a high school diploma, whichever date is earliest.

(2) Scholarships awarded under this section to students who are dependents of public safety officers, **reserve officers or volunteer firefighters** or who are current foster children or former foster children shall equal the amount of tuition and all fees levied by the institution against the recipient of the scholarship. However, scholarships awarded to students who attend independent institutions may not exceed the amount of tuition and all fees levied by the University of Oregon.

(3) If a student who is the dependent of a deceased public safety officer, **reserve officer or volunteer firefighter** continues to remain enrolled in a public university listed in ORS 352.002 or a community college or an independent institution within the State of Oregon, the student shall be entitled to renewal of the scholarship until the student has re-

ceived the equivalent of four years of undergraduate education and four years of post-graduate education.

(4) If a student who is a current foster child or former foster child or who is the dependent of a public safety officer, **reserve officer or volunteer firefighter** with a disability continues to remain enrolled in a public university listed in ORS 352.002 or a community college or an independent institution within the State of Oregon, the student shall be entitled to renewal of the scholarship until the student has received the equivalent of four years of undergraduate education.

(5) The Executive Director of the Office of Student Access and Completion may require proof of a student's relationship to a public safety officer, **reserve officer or volunteer firefighter** described in subsection (1) of this section or proof that a student is a current foster child or former foster child.

(6) As used in this section:

(a) "Former foster child" has the meaning given that term in ORS 351.293.

(b) "Public safety officer" means:

(A) A firefighter or police officer as those terms are defined in ORS 237.610.

(B) A member of the Oregon State Police.

(C) A police officer commissioned by a university under ORS 352.383 or 353.125.

(D) An authorized tribal police officer as defined in section 1, chapter 644, Oregon Laws 2011.

(c) **"Reserve officer" has the meaning given that term in ORS 133.005.**

(d) **"Volunteer firefighter" has the meaning given that term in ORS 652.050.**

SECTION 2. ORS 348.270, as amended by section 51, chapter 644, Oregon Laws 2011, section 3, chapter 116, Oregon Laws 2013, section 37, chapter 180, Oregon Laws 2013, and section 93, chapter 747, Oregon Laws 2013, is amended to read:

348.270. (1) In addition to any other scholarships provided by law, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall award scholarships in any public university listed in ORS 352.002, in the Oregon Health and Science University, in any community college operated under ORS chapter 341, or in any Oregon-based regionally accredited independent institution, to any student applying for enrollment or who is enrolled therein, who is:

(a) The natural child, adopted child or stepchild of any public safety officer, **reserve officer or volunteer firefighter** who, in the line of duty, was killed or so disabled, as determined by the Executive Director of the Office of Student Access and Completion, that:

(A) The income of the public safety officer is less than that earned by public safety officers performing duties comparable to those performed at the highest rank or grade attained by the public safety officer; or

(B) **The income of the reserve officer or volunteer firefighter working in their primary profession or type of employment is less than that earned by individuals in the same profession or**

type of employment with similar levels of education and experience; or

(b) A current foster child or former foster child who enrolls in an institution of higher education as an undergraduate student not later than three years from the date the student was removed from the care of the Department of Human Services, the date the student graduated from high school or the date the student received the equivalent of a high school diploma, whichever date is earliest.

(2) Scholarships awarded under this section to students who are dependents of public safety officers, **reserve officers or volunteer firefighters** or who are current foster children or former foster children shall equal the amount of tuition and all fees levied by the institution against the recipient of the scholarship. However, scholarships awarded to students who attend independent institutions may not exceed the amount of tuition and all fees levied by the University of Oregon.

(3) If a student who is the dependent of a deceased public safety officer, **reserve officer or volunteer firefighter** continues to remain enrolled in a public university listed in ORS 352.002 or a community college or an independent institution within the State of Oregon, the student shall be entitled to renewal of the scholarship until the student has received the equivalent of four years of undergraduate education and four years of post-graduate education.

(4) If a student who is a current foster child or former foster child or who is the dependent of a public safety officer, **reserve officer or volunteer firefighter** with a disability continues to remain enrolled in a public university listed in ORS 352.002

or a community college or an independent institution within the State of Oregon, the student shall be entitled to renewal of the scholarship until the student has received the equivalent of four years of undergraduate education.

(5) The executive director may require proof of a student's relationship to a public safety officer, **reserve officer or volunteer firefighter** described in subsection (1) of this section or proof that a student is a current foster child or former foster child.

(6) As used in this section:

(a) "Former foster child" has the meaning given that term in ORS 351.293.

(b) "Public safety officer" means:

(A) A firefighter or police officer as those terms are defined in ORS 237.610.

(B) A member of the Oregon State Police.

(C) A police officer commissioned by a university under ORS 352.383 or 353.125.

(c) "**Reserve officer**" has the meaning given that term in ORS 133.005.

(d) "**Volunteer firefighter**" has the meaning given that term in ORS 652.050.

SECTION 3. The amendments to ORS 348.270 by sections 1 and 2 of this 2014 Act apply to all scholarships awarded on or after the effective date of this 2014 Act, regardless of whether the public safety officer, reserve officer or volunteer firefighter was killed or disabled before, on or after the effective date of this 2014 Act.

Approved by the Governor March 3, 2014

Filed in the office of Secretary of State March 3, 2014

Effective date January 1, 2015