

CHAPTER 12

AN ACT

HB 4014

Relating to higher education tuition waivers for foster children; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 350.300.

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

SECTION 1. ORS 350.300 is amended to read:

350.300. (1) Notwithstanding ORS 341.290, 352.105 or 353.050, a current foster child or former foster child under 25 years of age who enrolls in an institution of higher education as an undergraduate student shall have the amount of tuition and all fees levied against the student waived if attending an institution of higher education for purposes of pursuing an initial undergraduate degree.

(2) A student who is a current foster child or former foster child is entitled to waiver of tuition and all fees under subsection (1) of this section until the student has received the equivalent of four years of undergraduate education.

(3) As a condition of receiving a tuition waiver for an academic year, a current foster child or former foster child must[.]

[(a)] complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for that academic year[.] and]

[(b) *For years after the first academic year at an institution of higher education, have completed a minimum of 30 volunteer service hours in the previous academic year performing community service activities such as mentoring foster youth or assisting in the provision of peer support service activities, according to policies developed by the institution of higher edu-*

cation at which the current foster child or former foster child is enrolled.]

(4) A waiver of tuition and all fees under subsection (1) of this section may be reduced by the amount of any federal aid scholarships or grants, an award from the Oregon Opportunity Grant program established under ORS 348.205 and any other aid received from the institution of higher education. For the purposes of this subsection, "federal aid scholarships or grants" does not include Chafee Education and Training Grant vouchers (P.L. 107-133).

(5) As used in this section:

(a) "Former foster child" means an individual who, for a total of six or more months while between 14 and 21 years of age, was:

(A) A ward of the court pursuant to ORS 419B.100 (1)(b) to (e), in the legal custody of the Department of Human Services for out-of-home placement and not dismissed from care before reaching 16 years of age; or

(B) An Indian child subject to the Indian Child Welfare Act (25 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.), under the jurisdiction of a tribal court for out-of-home placement and not dismissed from care before reaching 16 years of age.

(b) "Institution of higher education" means:

(A) A public university listed in ORS 352.002;

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

(C) The Oregon Health and Science University.

SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 350.300 by section 1 of this 2018 Act first apply to tuition waivers granted for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Approved by the Governor March 16, 2018

Filed in the office of Secretary of State March 21, 2018

Effective date January 1, 2019