



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Veterans honored in vote to allow in-state college tuition

HB 2158B provides veterans in Oregon the ability to pay in-state tuition before establishing state residency

SALEM—This morning the Oregon Senate voted to extend in-state tuition to veterans seeking a college education at one of the state's public universities or community colleges. House Bill 2158B, which passed the Senate on a vote of 28-0 with two excused, directs public universities and community colleges to charge veterans in-state tuition, as long as they provide proof of presence in Oregon for a period of one year.

“Oregon has a responsibility to support our men and women in uniform as they return from duty and prepare to enter the workforce,” said Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson (D-Gresham) a member of the Veterans Services and Emergency Preparedness Committee. “By making college more affordable for veterans, we can extend greater opportunities to veterans in honor of their sacrifices.”

Under current law, all honorably-discharged, nonresident veteran undergraduates at public universities and community colleges in Oregon receive a tuition reduction until they establish residency in the state. Under this formula, veterans pay the resident rate plus half the difference between resident and nonresident rates, and the GI Bill does not cover this added 50-percent difference.

House Bill 2158B requires that colleges charge in-state tuition for undergraduate veterans with either an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions if the veteran demonstrates his or her physical presence in Oregon within 12 months of enrollment. That saves veterans from having to pay the added 50 percent calculation that is not covered by the GI Bill.

“We have an obligation to do what we can to give men and women in uniform better access to an excellent education,” said Senator Rod Monroe (D-Portland). “Our veterans have made many sacrifices defending their country. Let's honor them by giving them this benefit for in-state tuition when they return home.”

House Bill 2158B will now return to the Oregon House of Representatives for a concurrence motion.

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