

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

CHAPTER 575

HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION, OFFICE OF STUDENT ACCESS AND COMPLETION

FILING CAPTION: Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance

LAST DAY AND TIME TO OFFER COMMENT TO AGENCY: 11/28/2019 5:00 PM

HEARING(S):

DATE: 11/19/2019

TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

OFFICER: Karen Lynne Howard

ADDRESS: Public Service Building,

HECC

255 Capitol Street NE

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NEED FOR THE RULE(S):

The 2019 Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 2817 which expanded the current tuition assistance grant program for members of the Oregon National Guard. This program is used for resident tuition at Oregon public universities and community colleges, once all state and federal aid has been utilized. House Bill 2817 allows eligible Oregon National Guard members to use the grant program at Oregon Health and Science University and qualifying private institutions that meet the criteria set forth in ORS 348.597 (2). The program will also allow eligible Oregon National Guard members to use the grant program for undergraduate certificate programs at eligible institutions. Under House Bill 2817 expansion of the program will apply to tuition assistance for the 2020-2021 academic year.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE:

HB 2817(2019) - Oregon Legislative Information System

Oregon Laws 2018 Chapter 53 - Oregon Legislative Information System

OAR 575-067-0001 through 0020 (May 7, 2019) - Oregon Secretary of State Oregon Administrative Rules Database

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT:

None, the program can continue to operate under current budget allocations.

COST OF COMPLIANCE:

(1) Identify any state agencies, units of local government, and members of the public likely to be economically affected by the rule(s). (2) Effect on Small Businesses: (a) Estimate the number and type of small businesses subject to the rule(s); (b) Describe the expected reporting, recordkeeping and administrative activities and cost required to comply with the rule(s); (c) Estimate the cost of professional services, equipment supplies, labor and increased administration required to comply with the rule(s).

The HECC, Oregon National Guard (Army and Air branches). The two agencies have worked together to develop these rules, and will continue to refine them as needed to administer the grant program. The expansion of this program will have a positive economic impact on the eligible students who can utilize these funds. Oregon community colleges, public universities, Oregon Health and Science University, and eligible private institutions are affected by the rules for this grant program and will remain stakeholders throughout the process.

DESCRIBE HOW SMALL BUSINESSES WERE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RULE(S):

Small businesses were not involved in the development of these rules.

WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE RULE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSULTED? NO IF NOT, WHY NOT?No. An advisory committee does not exist for this program, but these rules were written in coordination with the Oregon National Guard (Air and Army branches).

CONTACT:

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RULES PROPOSED:

575-067-0002, 575-067-0006, 575-067-0011, 575-067-0016, 575-067-0021

AMEND: 575-067-0002

RULE TITLE: Definitions

RULE SUMMARY: Expanding the current tuition assistance grant program for members of the Oregon National Guard.

RULE TEXT:

- (1) "Eligible institution" means any Oregon community college operated under ORS chapter 341, any Oregon public university listed in ORS 352.002, Oregon Health and Science University, or a qualifying private nonprofit institution which meets the criteria defined in ORS 348.597(2) for exemption from ORS 348.597 to 348.615.
- (2) "Good standing" means the qualified student has a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher or is maintaining satisfactory academic progress as defined by the institution in accordance with federal Title IV regulations and guidelines.
- (3) "Home Institution" means the institution that grants a certificate or degree upon the student's completion of an eligible program. It is the institution that determines the student's eligibility for federal and state financial aid, disburses funds to the student, and is responsible for determining applicant eligibility.
- (4) "Tuition" means the amount charged to a student for a course and is based upon the number of

credit hours for which the course is offered.

(5) “Certificate of completion” is a form of recognition awarded by an eligible institution for meeting the minimum occupational course, curriculum or proficiency requirements at the undergraduate level. Certificates of completion for certificate programs must be state-approved, if so required by OAR 589-006-0300, have a defined job entry point, represent collegiate-level work, be credit bearing, and meet Commission standards (ORS 350.075, Powers, duties and functions; rules) and criteria.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: 2018 Oregon Laws Chapter 53

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: 2018 Oregon Laws Chapter 53

AMEND: 575-067-0006

RULE TITLE: Student Eligibility Requirements

RULE SUMMARY: Expanding the current tuition assistance grant program for members of the Oregon National Guard.

RULE TEXT:

(1) In order to be eligible, a student must:

(a) Not have achieved a baccalaureate or higher degree from any post-secondary institution;

(b) Be enrolled and in good standing in a program or curriculum designed to lead to a certificate of completion, as defined by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission by rule, an associate degree granting program, or an undergraduate baccalaureate degree granting program at an eligible institution;

(c) Be a member of the Oregon National Guard and attending all scheduled unit training assemblies and annual training periods and not currently the subject of any adverse actions under the provisions of any Army, Air Force or National Guard Regulations;

(d) Have completed any military basic training in the United States Armed Forces;

(e) Complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for each academic year, if eligible to file the application, and accept all state and federal aid grants available;

(f) Have completed a National Guard Federal Tuition Assistance or Military Tuition Assistance request, if eligible, and have accepted all state and federal aid grants available, including but not limited to federal grants offered by the United States Department of Education and the United States Department of Defense; and

(g) Not be in default on any federal Title IV loan or owe a refund on federal Title IV funds previously disbursed, unless the institution disbursing funds determines that the student has made satisfactory arrangements to repay and has regained federal eligibility.

(2) The Oregon National Guard will confirm subsections (c), (d) and (f) of section 1 of this rule. Eligible institutions will confirm subsections (b) and (g) of section 1 of this rule. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission will confirm subsections (a) and (e) of section 1 of this rule.

(3) A student continues to remain eligible to receive an Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance award until the student has 90 credit hours completed at an eligible Oregon community college, or 180 credit hours completed at an Oregon public university or the equivalent number of semester credit hours completed at a qualifying private nonprofit institution, calculated cumulatively. If a student is currently enrolled in a degree program when first applying for Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance, only the student's previous completed credit hours for that specific degree program will be counted towards the maximum allowable completed credit hour limit.

(4) In order to remain eligible for the Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance, students must

remain in good standing.

(5) Students attending eligible institutions may not receive an award in excess of the amount of resident tuition after first subtracting all state and federal aid grants available to the student. The source of the relevant tuition information shall be published annually by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: 2018 Oregon Laws Chapter 53, ORS 348

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: 2018 Oregon Laws Chapter 53, ORS 348

AMEND: 575-067-0011

RULE TITLE: Application Process

RULE SUMMARY: Expanding the current tuition assistance grant program for members of the Oregon National Guard.

RULE TEXT:

(1) Students shall submit an Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance application in addition to submitting a FAFSA by the deadline published by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Office of Student Access and Completion on the program website prior to enrollment in the next academic term. The deadline is 5:00 pm (PST or PDT). If a deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, it will automatically be extended to 5:00 pm (PST or PDT) on the following business day.

(2) HECC may waive the requirement set forth in section (1) of this rule for a student who was unable to complete an Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance application due to a significant hardship or whose completion of active duty basic training requirements occurs after the deadline published by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Office of Student Access and Completion on the program website prior to the academic term for which they wish to enroll.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: 2018 Oregon Laws Chapter 53

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: 2018 Oregon Laws Chapter 53

AMEND: 575-067-0016

RULE TITLE: Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance Calculation

RULE SUMMARY: Expanding the current tuition assistance grant program for members of the Oregon National Guard.

RULE TEXT:

(1) An eligible student shall receive an award in an amount that equals the resident tuition charges at Oregon public universities, the Oregon Health and Science University, and community colleges that the student is attending. For qualifying private nonprofit institutions, the award amount shall equal the average base resident tuition rate of all Oregon public universities.

(a) For students who are dually enrolled in two or more colleges, the Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance award will be based on the resident tuition rate charged by the student's home institution.

(2) For the Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance program, a dually enrolled, or co-enrolled, student is a student who attends more than one eligible institution during the same academic term or year under a written consortium agreement or concurrent enrollment program.

(3) A student can only be awarded program funds for courses that are a requirement for the declared degree-granting program in which they are enrolled

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: 2018 Oregon Laws Chapter 53

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: 2018 Oregon Laws Chapter 53

AMEND: 575-067-0021

RULE TITLE: Record Keeping

RULE SUMMARY: Expanding the current tuition assistance grant program for members of the Oregon National Guard.

RULE TEXT:

(1) Each eligible institution shall maintain sufficient records to document its activities relating to the program by rule regarding student financial aid records (OAR 166-450-0045, OAR 166-475-0055).

(2) Each eligible institution shall make its academic and financial records available to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission upon request for the purpose of assuring that the institution is complying with the rules relating to the administration of the program.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: 2018 Oregon Laws Chapter 53

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: 2018 Oregon Laws Chapter 53

