

DRAFT

SUMMARY

Amends Oregon Promise program to remove prohibition on awarding more than \$10 million in grants per fiscal year. Makes requirement that person participating in program pay \$50 per term in tuition payable by reducing amount of grant awarded, instead of requiring separate payment by person.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to the Oregon Promise program; amending ORS 341.522.

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

SECTION 1. ORS 341.522, as amended by section 1, chapter 75, Oregon Laws 2016, is amended to read:

341.522. (1) The Office of Student Access and Completion shall administer the Oregon Promise program as provided by this section.

(2) Subject to subsections (5) and (6) of this section, the office shall provide a [*waiver of tuition*] **grant** for community college courses to a person who meets the criteria described in subsections (3) and (4) of this section. The [*waiver*] **grant** shall be [*a grant and*] limited as provided by subsections (5) and (6) of this section.

(3) A grant shall be awarded under this section to a person who meets the following criteria:

(a) Is enrolled in courses that are:

(A) Offered at a community college in this state; and

(B) Determined by the office, in accordance with rules adopted by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, to be required for completion of:

- 1 (i) A one-year curriculum for students who plan to transfer to another
2 post-secondary institution of education;
- 3 (ii) An associate degree; or
- 4 (iii) A program in career and technical education;
- 5 (b) Has been a resident of this state for at least 12 months prior to en-
6 rolling in the courses described in paragraph (a) of this subsection;
- 7 (c) Attained the person's highest level of education in this state prior to:
- 8 (A) Receiving a diploma under ORS 329.451;
- 9 (B) Receiving a General Educational Development (GED) certificate as
10 provided by ORS 350.175;
- 11 (C) Completing grade 12 in compliance with the requirements of ORS
12 339.035; or
- 13 (D) Completing grade 12 at a private or parochial school, as described in
14 ORS 339.030 (1)(a);
- 15 (d) Attained the person's highest level of education as described in para-
16 graph (c) of this subsection within six months from the date that the person
17 first enrolls in courses described in paragraph (a) of this subsection for the
18 purpose of receiving a grant under this section;
- 19 (e) Earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better in high
20 school or otherwise demonstrated an equivalent academic ability, as deter-
21 mined by the office according to rules adopted by the commission;
- 22 (f) Completed and submitted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid
23 for each academic year and accepted all state and federal aid grants avail-
24 able to the person, if eligible to file the application; and
- 25 (g) Has not completed either of the following:
- 26 (A) More than a total of 90 credit hours, or the equivalent, at a post-
27 secondary institution of education; or
- 28 (B) A curriculum, degree or program, as described in paragraph (a)(B) of
29 this subsection.
- 30 (4)(a) A person continues to remain eligible to receive a grant under this
31 section if the person, in addition to satisfying the criteria specified in sub-

1 section (3) of this section, meets the following criteria:

2 (A) Maintains at least the minimum cumulative grade point average pre-
3 scribed by the commission based on federal aid grant requirements;

4 (B) Makes satisfactory academic progress toward a curriculum, degree or
5 program, as described in subsection (3)(a)(B) of this section, as prescribed
6 by the commission based on federal aid grant requirements;

7 (C) Enrolls in courses described in subsection (3)(a) of this section for a
8 sufficient number of credit hours to be considered at least a half-time student
9 each term for at least three terms in each consecutive academic year; and

10 (D) Completes a first-year experience, as identified by the community
11 college and reported by the community college to the commission.

12 (b) A person who fails to meet an eligibility requirement described in
13 paragraph (a) of this subsection becomes ineligible to receive a grant under
14 this section for the term after which the person fails to meet the eligibility
15 requirement, unless the eligibility requirement is waived by the office ac-
16 cording to rules adopted by the commission.

17 (5)(a) The total amount of a grant awarded under this section shall be
18 based on each term that a person is enrolled in courses described in sub-
19 section (3)(a) of this section. After the amount of tuition for the person for
20 the term is [*reduced by \$50, to be paid by the person, and*] reduced by any
21 amounts received by the person in state and federal aid grants, the person
22 shall be eligible for a grant under this section in an amount that equals:

23 (A) Except as provided by [*paragraph*] **paragraphs (b) and (c)** of this
24 subsection, not less than the greater of:

25 (i) \$1,000; and

26 (ii) The person's actual cost for tuition.

27 (B) Not more than the lesser of:

28 (i) The average cost of tuition at a community college in this state, as
29 determined by the office; and

30 (ii) The person's actual cost for tuition.

31 **(b) The amount of a grant, as calculated under paragraph (a) of this**

1 **subsection, shall be reduced by \$50 for each term that the person re-**
2 **ceives a grant under this section.**

3 [(b)] (c) The minimum amount of a grant, as calculated under paragraph
4 (a) of this subsection, may be prorated for a person who is enrolled in
5 courses described in subsection (3)(a) of this section for a sufficient number
6 of credit hours to be considered at least a half-time student but not a full-
7 time student.

8 [(c)] (d) The commission may prescribe by rule whether to include fees,
9 and any limitations related to the inclusion of fees, when determining the
10 actual cost of tuition or the average cost of tuition under this subsection.

11 (6) [*The total amount in grants awarded under this section by the office*
12 *may not exceed \$10 million per fiscal year, or any lesser amount available to*
13 *the office for the purpose of this section.*] The commission may adopt by rule
14 the priority by which grants are awarded, which may allow for preference
15 to be given to persons enrolled in school districts or high schools that meet
16 specified criteria.

17 (7) The commission shall adopt any rules necessary for the administration
18 of this section, including any requirements related to:

19 (a) Specifying the form and timelines for submitting an application for a
20 grant under this section;

21 (b) Determining whether a person is eligible for a grant under this sec-
22 tion, including whether the person shall be given priority as allowed under
23 subsection (6) of this section;

24 (c) Implementing programs or policies that improve the academic success
25 or completion rates for persons who receive a grant under this section;

26 (d) Prescribing eligibility requirements and grant calculations for persons
27 dually enrolled in a community college and a public university; and

28 (e) Evaluating the impact of the program established under this section,
29 including any requirements for reporting data needed for evaluations.

30 (8) No later than December 31 of each even-numbered year, the commis-
31 sion shall submit to an interim legislative committee related to education a

1 report that summarizes the commission's findings on the impact of the pro-
2 gram established under this section. The report shall include:

3 (a) Student completion rates of curricula, degrees and programs described
4 in subsection (3)(a)(B) of this section;

5 (b) The amount of federal aid grants received by persons who received a
6 grant under this section;

7 (c) The financial impact of the program on school districts that had stu-
8 dents receive a grant under this section;

9 (d) The financial impact and the enrollment impact of the program on
10 community colleges and public universities in this state; and

11 (e) The overall success rate of the program and financial impact of the
12 program.

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