

B-Engrossed Senate Bill 81

Ordered by the Senate June 30
Including Senate Amendments dated March 30 and June 30

Printed pursuant to Senate Interim Rule 213.28 by order of the President of the Senate in conformance with pre-session filing rules, indicating neither advocacy nor opposition on the part of the President (at the request of Senate Interim Committee on Education and Workforce Development)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Requires tuition for certain courses offered at community college to be waived if person meets specified criteria. **Requires that waiver be in form of grant. Places limitations on amounts waived.**

First applies to courses enrolled in for 2016-2017 academic year.

Declares emergency, effective *[July 1, 2015]* on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to waiver of tuition for community college courses; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2015 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 341.**

5 **SECTION 2. (1) The Office of Student Access and Completion shall administer the Oregon**
6 **Promise program as provided by this section.**

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

11 **(3) A grant shall be awarded under this section to a person who meets the following cri-**
12 **teria:**

13 **(a) Is enrolled in courses that are:**

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

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

17 **(i) A one-year curriculum for students who plan to transfer to another post-secondary**
18 **institution of education;**

19 **(ii) An associate degree; or**

20 **(iii) A program in career and technical education;**

21 **(b) Has been a resident of this state for at least 12 months prior to enrolling in the**
22 **courses described in paragraph (a) of this subsection;**

23 **(c) Attained the person's highest level of education in this state prior to:**

24 **(A) Receiving a diploma under ORS 329.451;**

25 **(B) Receiving a General Educational Development (GED) certificate as provided by ORS**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **351.768; or**

2 (C) **Completing grade 12 in compliance with the requirements of ORS 339.035;**

3 (d) **Attained the person's highest level of education as described in paragraph (c) of this**
4 **subsection within six months from the date that the person first enrolls in courses described**
5 **in paragraph (a) of this subsection for the purpose of receiving a grant under this section;**

6 (e) **Earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better in high school or otherwise**
7 **demonstrated an equivalent academic ability, as determined by the office according to rules**
8 **adopted by the commission;**

9 (f) **Completed and submitted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for each aca-**
10 **ademic year and accepted all state and federal aid grants available to the person, if eligible**
11 **to file the application; and**

12 (g) **Has not completed either of the following:**

13 (A) **More than a total of 90 credit hours, or the equivalent, at a post-secondary institu-**
14 **tion of education; or**

15 (B) **A curriculum, degree or program, as described in paragraph (a)(B) of this subsection.**

16 (4)(a) **A person continues to remain eligible to receive a grant under this section if the**
17 **person, in addition to satisfying the criteria specified in subsection (3) of this section, meets**
18 **the following criteria:**

19 (A) **Maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better during each term for**
20 **which the person has received a grant under this section;**

21 (B) **Makes satisfactory progress toward a curriculum, degree or program, as described**
22 **in subsection (3)(a)(B) of this section, as determined by the office according to rules adopted**
23 **by the commission; and**

24 (C) **Enrolls in courses described in subsection (3)(a) of this section for a sufficient num-**
25 **ber of credit hours to be considered at least a half-time student each term for at least three**
26 **terms in each consecutive academic year.**

27 (b) **A person who fails to maintain the cumulative grade point average specified in para-**
28 **graph (a)(A) of this subsection becomes ineligible to receive a grant under this section for**
29 **the term after which the person fails to maintain the cumulative grade point average, unless**
30 **the eligibility requirement of paragraph (a)(A) of this subsection is waived by the office ac-**
31 **ording to rules adopted by the commission.**

32 (5)(a) **The total amount of a grant awarded under this section shall be based on each**
33 **term that a person is enrolled in courses described in subsection (3)(a) of this section. After**
34 **the amount of tuition for the person for the term is reduced by \$50, to be paid by the person,**
35 **and reduced by any amounts received by the person in state and federal aid grants, the**
36 **person shall be eligible for a grant under this section in an amount that equals:**

37 (A) **Except as provided by paragraph (b) of this subsection, not less than the greater of:**

38 (i) **\$1,000; and**

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

40 (B) **Not more than the lesser of:**

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

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

44 (b) **The minimum amount of a grant, as calculated under paragraph (a) of this sub-**
45 **section, may be prorated for a person who is enrolled in courses described in subsection**

1 (3)(a) of this section for a sufficient number of credit hours to be considered at least a
2 half-time student but not a full-time student.

3 (c) The commission may prescribe by rule whether to include fees, and any limitations
4 related to the inclusion of fees, when determining the actual cost of tuition or the average
5 cost of tuition under this subsection.

6 (6) The total amount in grants awarded under this section by the office may not exceed
7 \$10 million per fiscal year, or any lesser amount available to the office for the purpose of this
8 section. The commission may adopt by rule the priority by which grants are awarded, which
9 may allow for preference to be given to persons enrolled in school districts or high schools
10 that meet specified criteria.

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

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

15 (b) Determining whether a person is eligible for a grant under this section, including
16 whether the person shall be given priority as allowed under subsection (6) of this section;

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

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

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

23 (8) No later than December 31 of each even-numbered year, the commission shall submit
24 to an interim legislative committee related to education a report that summarizes the
25 commission's findings on the impact of the program established under this section. The re-
26 port shall include:

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

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

31 (c) The financial impact of the program on school districts that had students receive a
32 grant under this section;

33 (d) The financial impact and the enrollment impact of the program on community col-
34 leges and public universities in this state; and

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

36 **SECTION 3.** (1) Section 2 of this 2015 Act becomes operative on July 1, 2016.

37 (2) Section 2 of this 2015 Act first applies to courses enrolled in for the 2016-2017 aca-
38 demic year.

39 (3) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission, the Office of Student Access and
40 Completion or a community college district may take any action before the operative date
41 specified in subsection (1) of this section that is necessary for the commission, office or
42 district to exercise, on or after the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section,
43 all of the duties, functions and powers conferred on the commission, office or district by
44 section 2 of this 2015 Act.

45 **SECTION 4.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-

1 ated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for the biennium beginning July 1,
2 2015, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$10 million, which may be expended for the
3 creation and implementation of the program established under section 2 of this 2015 Act,
4 including the provision of grants under the program.

5 SECTION 5. This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
6 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect
7 on its passage.

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