

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways & Means by prior reference
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Kruse, Metsger, Morse, Westlund, Walker
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Dana Richardson, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/17, 4/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates the Oregon Public Interest Professional Loan Repayment Program administered by the Oregon Student Assistance Commission. Allows commission to enter into agreements with individuals employed in specified areas for repayment of educational loans. Requires loan recipient serve at least three years as public interest attorney, teacher, or social worker. Raises annual gross income from eligible employment to \$55,000 maximum. Appropriates moneys. Declares an emergency; effective July 1, 2007.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Requirement for length of service
- Including more types of attorneys

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Requires loan recipient serve at least three years as public interest attorney, teacher, or social worker. Raises annual gross income from eligible employment to \$55,000 maximum. Appropriates \$700,000 from General Fund for Loan Repayment Program.

BACKGROUND: This bill would allow the Oregon Student Assistance Commission to enter into loan repayment agreements for up to 50 public interest attorneys, up to 50 teachers, and up to 50 social workers. These types of vocations often experience shortages because the debt load of individuals following completion of schooling prevents them from beginning and continuing employment in what are typically lower paying jobs.

To encourage students to enter health care professions, the Legislature has created loan repayment programs in areas such as nursing. The Nursing Service Program provides for loan repayment for service in critical shortage areas.