

# House Bill 2246

Ordered printed by the Speaker pursuant to House Rule 12.00A (5). Pre-session filed (at the request of Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski for Oregon Student Assistance Commission)

## 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 **as introduced**.

Requires Department of Human Services to transfer JOBS Plus participant's Oregon JOBS Individual Education Account to Oregon Student Assistance Commission to provide education assistance to participant after participant leaves JOBS Plus Program.

Requires commission to establish scholarship fund for current or former JOBS Plus Program participants using education account funds that are unobligated five years after participant leaves JOBS Plus Program.

Requires commission to provide annual financial aid information to JOBS Plus Program participants.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to education aid for JOBS Plus Program participants; amending ORS 411.894.

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

**SECTION 1.** ORS 411.894 is amended to read:

411.894. (1) The Oregon JOBS Individual Education Account is established to improve the position of JOBS Plus participants in the workforce by increasing their access to continuing education. Employer contributions to the account under this section shall be used to pay for education expenses for the individual as provided in subsection (2) of this section.

(2)(a) After the participant has participated in the JOBS Plus Program for 30 days, the employer shall pay, in addition to the participant wage, one dollar for each participant hour worked into the participant's individual education account. Contributions to such an account shall be tax deferred or tax-exempt to the extent permitted by federal and state law.

(b) Any participant for whom an Oregon JOBS Individual Education Account contribution is made shall be eligible for access to education benefits from that participant's individual education account for up to five years after the participant has left the JOBS Plus Program and has held a full-time, unsubsidized job for at least 30 days.

(c) *[When any participant has qualified for use of that participant's individual education account, an amount equal to that participant's individual education account balance]* **If a JOBS Plus Program participant's individual education account has a balance remaining when the participant leaves the program, the Department of Human Services must transfer the account** *[shall be transferred]* to the Oregon Student Assistance Commission for that participant's use. Only one individual education account shall be created for any participant. Each account shall be administered by the *[Oregon Student Assistance]* commission and shall be used for continuing education and training for the participant and the participant's immediate family.

(3)(a) The *[Oregon Student Assistance]* commission may use any interest earned by an individual education account transferred to the commission under this section for payment of expenses incurred by the commission in carrying out its duties under this section.

**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 (b) The department [*of Human Services*] shall transfer any interest earned by the Oregon JOBS  
2 Individual Education Account to the General Fund for general governmental purposes. The depart-  
3 ment shall transfer the interest no later than the close of each fiscal year in which the interest is  
4 earned.

5 (4) **The commission shall establish a scholarship fund for current or former JOBS Plus**  
6 **Program participants using** any unexpended or unobligated moneys remaining in [*an*] **a partic-**  
7 **ipant's** individual education account five years after the participant has left the [*JOBS Plus*] pro-  
8 gram [*are appropriated and transferred to the Oregon Opportunity Grant Fund on that date*].

9 (5) **The commission must provide financial aid information annually to each current**  
10 **JOBS Plus Program participant to assist the participant in accessing post-secondary educa-**  
11 **tional opportunities.**

12 \_\_\_\_\_