

A-Engrossed
Senate Bill 448

Ordered by the Senate April 18
Including Senate Amendments dated April 18

Sponsored by Senator DECKERT

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.

[Directs State Board of Higher Education to review long-term viability of state institutions of higher education and to report detailed findings of review to Governor and Legislative Assembly no later than February 1, 2009.]

[Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2007.]

Directs Oregon Student Assistance Commission to establish service award voucher program for students studying to become licensed educators. Sets forth qualifications, selection factors, award amounts and employment requirements for students participating in program.

Establishes Multicultural Student to Educator Fund for purpose of awarding service award vouchers.

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Oregon Student Assistance Commission for Multicultural Student to Educator Fund.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to higher education; and appropriating money.

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

4 **SECTION 1. As used in sections 1 to 5 of this 2007 Act:**

5 (1) **"Eligible post-secondary institution" means:**

6 (a) **A state institution under the direction of the State Board of Higher Education listed**
7 **in ORS 352.002;**

8 (b) **An Oregon-based, generally accredited, not-for-profit institution of higher education;**
9 **or**

10 (c) **A community college as defined in ORS 341.005.**

11 (2) **"Participant" means a student who receives a service award voucher under section 2**
12 **of this 2007 Act.**

13 (3) **"Teacher" has the meaning given that term in ORS 342.120.**

14 **SECTION 2. (1) The Oregon Student Assistance Commission shall establish the Multi-**
15 **cultural Student to Educator Program, a service award voucher program for students**
16 **studying to become licensed educators. To be eligible for participation in the program, a**
17 **student must:**

18 (a) **Be registered as a junior or a senior undergraduate student or hold a bachelor's de-**
19 **gree and be registered in a graduate or post-baccalaureate program in an eligible post-**
20 **secondary institution;**

21 (b) **Be enrolled at least half-time in a licensure program approved by the Teacher Stan-**
22 **dards and Practices Commission;**

23 (c) **Have at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average based on a 4.0 scale at the time**

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 of receipt of the service award voucher; and

2 (d) Agree to be employed in an Oregon school district for the length of time necessary
3 to complete the requirements for receiving a service award voucher, as described in section
4 4 of this 2007 Act.

5 (2) In selecting students described in subsection (1) of this section to participate in the
6 program, the commission shall give consideration to the following factors:

7 (a) Whether the income of the parents of a student is at or below 60 percent of the state
8 median income, adjusted for family size as determined by the commission by rule, for the
9 year preceding application for the service award voucher;

10 (b) Whether both parents of a student have not graduated from an institution of higher
11 education;

12 (c) Whether a student is the first generation of the student's family to attend an insti-
13 tution of higher education;

14 (d) Whether a student speaks English as a second language;

15 (e) Whether a student has employment or child-rearing responsibilities;

16 (f) Whether the schools a student attended from kindergarten through grade 12 were in
17 low income areas or were low performing schools, as those terms are defined by the com-
18 mission by rule; and

19 (g) How a student may enhance the cultural diversity of Oregon public schools as a
20 teacher.

21 (3) A student seeking to participate in the program may apply directly to the commission
22 or may seek nomination for eligibility by the eligible post-secondary institution the student
23 attends.

24 (4) An eligible post-secondary institution may nominate an eligible student to the com-
25 mission to participate in the program.

26 (5) The commission shall determine whether the student qualifies for the program based
27 on the criteria set out in subsection (2) of this section.

28 **SECTION 3. (1) The Oregon Student Assistance Commission shall award each participant:**

29 (a) A \$500 service award voucher for the first year of study after acceptance into the
30 Multicultural Student to Educator Program; and

31 (b) A \$500 service award voucher for the second year of study after acceptance into the
32 program.

33 (2) In addition to the service award vouchers awarded under subsection (1) of this sec-
34 tion, the commission shall award to each participant who agrees to four years of full-time
35 employment as a teacher in an Oregon school district:

36 (a) A \$2,000 service award voucher after completion of the first year of the full-time
37 employment;

38 (b) A \$3,000 service award voucher after completion of the second year of the full-time
39 employment;

40 (c) A \$4,000 service award voucher after completion of the third year of the full-time
41 employment; and

42 (d) A \$5,000 service award voucher after completion of the fourth year of the full-time
43 employment.

44 (3) In addition to the service award vouchers awarded under subsection (1) of this sec-
45 tion, the commission shall award to each participant who agrees to three years of full-time

1 employment as a school counselor or as a mathematics, science, second language, English
2 to speakers of other languages, reading or special education teacher in an Oregon school
3 district or as a full-time teacher in a school in a low income area, as defined by the com-
4 mission by rule:

5 (a) A \$3,500 service award voucher after completion of the first year of the full-time
6 employment;

7 (b) A \$4,500 service award voucher after completion of the second year of the full-time
8 employment; and

9 (c) A \$6,000 service award voucher after completion of the third year of the full-time
10 employment.

11 (4) A participant may use a service award voucher for any of the following purposes:

12 (a) Repayment of a loan incurred by the participant for higher education costs;

13 (b) Payment of higher education costs at an eligible post-secondary institution incurred
14 by the participant; and

15 (c) As a contribution to a qualified college savings plan under section 529 of the Internal
16 Revenue Code.

17 **SECTION 4.** (1) The participant shall complete the employment requirement specified
18 under section 3 of this 2007 Act not later than six years after the date the participant grad-
19 uates from the licensure program approved by the Teacher Standards and Practices Com-
20 mission. The Oregon Student Assistance Commission may allow a participant additional time,
21 not to exceed three years, to complete the employment requirement. The total employment
22 requirement period, including any deferment period, may not exceed nine years. The com-
23 mission may grant a participant additional time to complete the employment requirement
24 as follows:

25 (a) For the period of enrollment if a participant returns to school on a full-time basis in
26 any course of study at an eligible post-secondary institution;

27 (b) Three additional years if the participant enters active service with the Armed Forces
28 of the United States;

29 (c) Three additional years if the participant enters the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, Volun-
30 teers in Service to America or a similar private agency with federal tax-exempt status;

31 (d) For a period of not more than six months if a participant becomes unemployed and
32 provides proof satisfactory to the commission that the participant is actively seeking em-
33 ployment; and

34 (e) For a period determined by the commission for other reasons allowed by the com-
35 mission.

36 (2) A participant must hold a bachelor's degree and a nonprovisional license issued by the
37 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission to be eligible for the service award vouchers
38 under section 3 (2) or (3) of this 2007 Act.

39 **SECTION 5.** (1) The Multicultural Student to Educator Fund is established in the State
40 Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Multicultural
41 Student to Educator Fund shall be credited to the fund. Moneys in the fund are continuously
42 appropriated to the Oregon Student Assistance Commission for the purpose of awarding
43 service award vouchers to participants in the Multicultural Student to Educator Program.

44 (2) The commission may seek grants and donations to provide funding for the program.
45 The commission shall deposit any moneys received under this subsection in the fund.

1 **SECTION 6.** Sections 1 to 5 of this 2007 Act first apply to participants who attend an el-
2 ible post-secondary institution during the 2008-2009 academic year.

3 **SECTION 7.** There is appropriated to the Oregon Student Assistance Commission, for the
4 biennium beginning July 1, 2007, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$500,000 for the
5 Multicultural Student to Educator Fund established in section 5 of this 2007 Act.
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