

House Bill 2487

Sponsored by Representative CLEM

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**.

Extends Oregon Opportunity Grant program to include qualified graduate students at eligible graduate institutions.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to Oregon Opportunity Grant program; amending ORS 348.180, 348.183, 348.205, 348.250 and
3 348.260.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 348.180 is amended to read:

6 348.180. As used in this section and ORS [*348.183*], 348.186, 348.205, 348.230, 348.250 and 348.260:

7 (1) "Cost of education" includes but is not limited to, tuition, fees and living expenses.

8 (2) "**Eligible graduate institution**" means:

9 (a) **A state institution under the direction of the State Board of Higher Education;**

10 (b) **The Oregon Health and Science University; or**

11 (c) **An Oregon-based, generally accredited, not-for-profit institution of higher education.**

12 [(2)] (3) "Eligible post-secondary institution" means:

13 (a) A state institution under the direction of the State Board of Higher Education;

14 (b) A community college operated under ORS chapter 341;

15 (c) The Oregon Health and Science University; or

16 (d) An Oregon-based, generally accredited, not-for-profit institution of higher education.

17 (4) "**Qualified graduate student**" means **any resident student who plans to attend an eli-**
18 **gible graduate institution and who:**

19 (a) **Has not achieved a graduate degree from any graduate institution;**

20 (b) **Is enrolled in an eligible program as defined by rule of the Oregon Student Assistance**
21 **Commission; and**

22 (c) **Is making satisfactory academic progress as defined by rule of the commission.**

23 [(3)] (5) "Qualified student" means any resident student who plans to attend an eligible post-
24 secondary institution and who:

25 (a) Has not achieved a baccalaureate or higher degree from any post-secondary institution;

26 (b) Is enrolled in an eligible program as defined by rule of the Oregon Student Assistance
27 Commission; and

28 (c) Is making satisfactory academic progress as defined by rule of the commission.

29 **SECTION 2.** ORS 348.205 is amended to read:

30 348.205. (1) The Oregon Opportunity Grant program is established within the Oregon Student
31 Assistance Commission.

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 (2) Under the program, the cost of education of a qualified student **or qualified graduate stu-**
 2 **dent** shall be shared by the student, the family of the student, the federal government and the state.

3 (3) The commission shall determine the cost of education of a qualified student **or qualified**
 4 **graduate student as follows:**

5 (a) **For a qualified student, the cost is** based on the type of eligible post-secondary institution
 6 the student is attending[. *The cost of education*] **and** equals:

7 [(a)] (A) For a student attending a community college, the average cost of education of attending
 8 a community college in this state;

9 [(b)] (B) For a student attending an institution under the direction of the State Board of Higher
 10 Education, the average cost of education of attending an institution under the direction of the board;

11 [(c)] (C) For a student attending a two-year Oregon-based, generally accredited, not-for-profit
 12 institution of higher education, the average cost of education of attending a community college in
 13 this state; and

14 [(d)] (D) For a student attending the Oregon Health and Science University or a four-year
 15 Oregon-based, generally accredited, not-for-profit institution of higher education, the average cost
 16 of education of attending an institution under the direction of the board.

17 (b) **For a qualified graduate student, the cost equals the average cost of education of**
 18 **attending a graduate program at an institution under the direction of the board.**

19 (4)(a) The commission shall determine the amount of the student share. The student share shall
 20 be based on:

21 (A) **Whether the student is a qualified student or a qualified graduate student;**

22 [(A)] (B) **If the student is a qualified student,** the type of eligible post-secondary institution
 23 the student is attending;

24 [(B)] (C) The number of hours of work that the commission determines may be reasonably ex-
 25 pected from the student; and

26 [(C)] (D) The amount of loans that the commission determines would constitute a manageable
 27 debt burden for the student.

28 (b) The student shall determine how to cover the student share through income from work,
 29 loans, savings and scholarships.

30 (c) The student share for a **qualified** student who attends a community college may not exceed
 31 the amount that the commission determines a student may earn based on the number of hours of
 32 work reasonably expected from the student under paragraph (a) of this subsection.

33 (d) The student share for a **qualified** student who attends an eligible post-secondary institution
 34 that is not a community college may not exceed the sum of the amount that the commission deter-
 35 mines a student may receive as loans plus the amount a student may earn based on the number of
 36 hours of work reasonably expected from the student under paragraph (a) of this subsection.

37 (e) **The student share for a qualified graduate student who attends an eligible graduate**
 38 **institution may not exceed the sum of the amount that the commission determines a student**
 39 **may receive as loans plus the amount a student may earn based on the number of hours of**
 40 **work reasonably expected from the student under paragraph (a) of this subsection.**

41 (5) The commission shall determine the amount of the family share. The family share shall be
 42 based on the resources of the family.

43 (6) The commission shall determine the amount of the federal share based on how much the
 44 student or the student's family is expected to receive from the federal government as grants, loans,
 45 tax credits or other student assistance.

1 (7)(a) The commission shall determine the amount of the state share. The state share shall be
 2 equal to the cost of education reduced by the student share, family share and amount received by
 3 the student from the federal government.

4 (b) The commission shall establish a minimum amount that a student may receive as a state
 5 share. **The minimum amount for qualified students may be different from the minimum**
 6 **amount for qualified graduate students.** If the commission determines that the amount of the
 7 state share of a student is below the minimum amount, the student may not receive the state share.

8 (c) In determining the amount of the state share **for a qualified student**, the commission
 9 [shall] **must** consider the total amount available to award as grants to all qualified students. If the
 10 commission must reduce the amount of the state share under this paragraph, the commission may
 11 not reduce the amount of the state share awarded to students in the low income range in a greater
 12 proportion than the amount that the state share for students in other income ranges is reduced.

13 **(d) In determining the amount of the state share for a qualified graduate student, the**
 14 **commission must award grants to qualified students at eligible post-secondary institutions**
 15 **before awarding grants to qualified graduate students at eligible graduate institutions. The**
 16 **commission must then consider the total amount available to award as grants to all qualified**
 17 **graduate students. If the commission must reduce the amount of the state share under this**
 18 **paragraph, the commission may not reduce the amount of the state share awarded to stu-**
 19 **dents in the low income range in a greater proportion than the amount that the state share**
 20 **for students in other income ranges is reduced.**

21 **SECTION 3.** ORS 348.183 is amended to read:

22 348.183. The Legislative Assembly recognizes:

23 (1) That an investment in educational opportunities for all Oregonians is an investment in a
 24 strong and stable economy and greater personal opportunities;

25 (2) That the single largest barrier to attending an institution of higher education is lack of fi-
 26 nances;

27 (3) That keeping higher education affordable requires a shared effort and partnership by stu-
 28 dents, family, the federal government, state government and private philanthropy;

29 (4) The broad and diverse range of quality post-secondary **and graduate** educational services
 30 provided by Oregon's institutions of higher education, including Oregon's community colleges, state
 31 institutions, [and] independent not-for-profit institutions of higher education **and graduate insti-**
 32 **tutions;** and

33 (5) The positive effects on Oregon's citizens, families and economy of encouraging talented and
 34 hardworking students to stay in Oregon to pursue a post-secondary **or graduate** education.

35 **SECTION 4.** ORS 348.250 is amended to read:

36 348.250. (1) Grants established under ORS 348.230 and 348.260 shall be awarded by the Oregon
 37 Student Assistance Commission in the manner provided in this section.

38 (2) Persons interested in obtaining a grant established under ORS 348.230 and 348.260 may apply
 39 to the commission for a grant.

40 (3) The commission shall screen or cause to be screened the applications and shall determine for
 41 each available grant the person best qualified to receive that grant. A qualified applicant is eligible
 42 to receive a grant established under ORS 348.230 and 348.260 if:

43 (a) The applicant's financial need is such that in the opinion of the commission financial aid is
 44 warranted; and

45 (b) The applicant plans to be a student at the eligible post-secondary institution **or eligible**

1 **graduate institution** where the grant is to be used.

2 (4) The commission shall not discriminate for or against any applicant for a grant.

3 (5) Nothing in ORS 348.210 to 348.260, 348.505 to 348.615, 348.696 and 348.992 shall be construed
4 to require any institution to admit a grant recipient or to attempt to control or influence the poli-
5 cies of the institution.

6 (6)(a) Whenever funds are not available to award grants to all qualified students **and qualified**
7 **graduate students**, the commission shall give priority to applicants **as follows**:

8 (A) **First priority to qualified students** who are or plan to be full-time students at the eligible
9 post-secondary institution where the grant is to be used.

10 (B) **Second priority to qualified students who are or plan to be part-time students at the**
11 **eligible post-secondary institution where the grant is to be used.**

12 (C) **Third priority to qualified graduate students who are or plan to be full-time students**
13 **at the eligible graduate institution where the grant is to be used.**

14 (D) **Fourth priority to qualified graduate students who are or plan to be part-time stu-**
15 **dents at the eligible graduate institution where the grant is to be used.**

16 (b) **For purposes of this subsection**, a student shall be considered to be a full-time student if
17 the combination of credit hours at more than one eligible post-secondary institution **or eligible**
18 **graduate institution** equals full-time attendance, according to the institution disbursing the grant
19 funds.

20 (7) As used in this section, “discriminate” has the meaning given “discrimination” in ORS
21 659.850.

22 **SECTION 5.** ORS 348.260 is amended to read:

23 348.260. (1) In addition to any other form of student financial aid authorized by law, the Oregon
24 Student Assistance Commission may award Oregon Opportunity Grants to qualified students **and**
25 **qualified graduate students.**

26 (2) The amount of a grant shall equal the state share of [*a qualified student's*] **the** cost of edu-
27 cation **for a qualified student or a qualified graduate student**, as determined by the commission
28 under ORS 348.205.

29 (3) Grant funds necessary to meet matching requirements for federal funds under the Leveraging
30 Educational Assistance Partnership Program and Special Leveraging Educational Assistance Part-
31 nership Program of the United States Department of Education may also be used to award grants
32 to qualified students **and qualified graduate students** in any eligible post-secondary institution **or**
33 **eligible graduate institution** approved by the commission.

34 (4) Grants may be awarded under this section to qualified students **or qualified graduate stu-**
35 **dents** enrolled for any term, including summer term. The commission may prescribe a specific date
36 by which a student must apply to the commission to qualify for a grant only if the commission de-
37 termines that the total amount available to award as the state share to all qualified students **or**
38 **qualified graduate students** is not sufficient to cover the total state share amount scheduled to
39 be awarded to all students.

40 (5) If a qualified student **at an eligible post-secondary institution** receiving a grant under this
41 section meets the standards for renewal of the grant, the grant may be renewed upon application
42 until the qualified student has received the equivalent of four full-time undergraduate years of grant
43 funding for an eligible program as defined by the commission.

44 (6) **If a qualified graduate student at an eligible graduate institution receiving a grant**
45 **under this section meets the standards for renewal of the grant, the grant may be renewed**

1 **upon application until the qualified graduate student has received the equivalent of the fol-**
2 **lowing number of full-time graduate years of grant funding for an eligible program as defined**
3 **by the commission:**

4 (a) **For a master's degree, three years.**

5 (b) **For a doctorate degree in law, four years.**

6 (c) **For a doctorate degree that is not a doctorate degree in law, six years.**

7 [(6)] (7) A qualified student **or qualified graduate student** who receives a grant under this
8 section must attend the eligible post-secondary institution **or eligible graduate institution** upon
9 which the grant application is based unless the commission authorizes the grant to be used at a
10 different eligible post-secondary institution **or eligible graduate institution**. A qualified student **or**
11 **qualified graduate student** who receives a grant under this section may attend more than one el-
12 igible post-secondary institution **or eligible graduate institution** if the grant application was based
13 on the qualified student **or qualified graduate student** attending more than one eligible post-
14 secondary institution **or eligible graduate institution**.

15 [(7)] (8) The commission may not make a grant to any qualified student **or qualified graduate**
16 **student** enrolled in a course of study required for and leading to a degree in theology, divinity or
17 religious education.

18