

House Bill 2575

Sponsored by Representative BERGER; Representatives BAILEY, BRUUN, DEMBROW, GARRARD, GREENLICK

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**.

Establishes Oregon Scholars Program. Directs Oregon Student Assistance Commission to award grants to qualified students for up to two years of tuition costs.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to education scholarships; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 348.570.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section, "state post-secondary institution" means:**

5 **(a) An institution of higher education listed in ORS 352.002; or**

6 **(b) A community college operated under ORS chapter 341.**

7 **(2) The Oregon Scholars Program is established within the Oregon Student Assistance**
8 **Commission.**

9 **(3) Under the program, the commission shall award, to the extent funds are made avail-**
10 **able, an initial Oregon scholars grant to a student who:**

11 **(a)(A) Has received a diploma from a high school in this state during the academic year**
12 **prior to the award of the grant; or**

13 **(B) Has served in the active Armed Forces of the United States and who was relieved or**
14 **discharged from that service under honorable conditions within the past 24 months;**

15 **(b) Has earned a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5 in high school classes;**

16 **(c) Is a resident of this state; and**

17 **(d) Has not achieved a baccalaureate or higher degree from any post-secondary institu-**
18 **tion.**

19 **(4) The commission shall award, to the extent funds are made available, a subsequent**
20 **Oregon scholars grant to a student who:**

21 **(a) Received an initial Oregon scholars grant for the previous academic year;**

22 **(b) Earned a minimum grade point average of 3.5 in a full-time course of study at a state**
23 **post-secondary institution during the previous academic year; and**

24 **(c) Fulfilled a community service requirement satisfying standards set by the commission**
25 **in subsection (7) of this section.**

26 **(5) The initial Oregon scholars grant and the subsequent Oregon scholars grant are each**
27 **equal to the cost of one academic year of tuition at a state post-secondary institution.**

28 **(6) The commission may not award an Oregon scholars grant to a student who is enrolled**
29 **in a course of study required for and leading to a degree in theology, divinity or religious**
30 **education.**

31 **(7) The commission shall adopt rules:**

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 **(a) Establishing priority for Oregon Scholars Program grants when funds are not avail-**
2 **able to award grants to all qualified students; and**

3 **(b) Setting standards for the community service requirement of subsection (4) of this**
4 **section.**

5 **SECTION 2.** ORS 348.570 is amended to read:

6 348.570. (1) There is established in the State Treasury a fund, separate and distinct from the
7 General Fund, to be known as the Oregon Student Assistance Fund for investment as provided by
8 ORS 293.701 to 293.820 and for the payment of the expenses of the Oregon Student Assistance
9 Commission in carrying out the purposes of ORS 348.210 to 348.250, 348.505 to 348.615, 348.696 and
10 348.992 **and section 1 of this 2009 Act.** Interest earned by the fund shall be credited to the fund.

11 (2) There is established in the State Treasury a fund, separate and distinct from the General
12 Fund, to be known as the Alternative Student Loan Program Fund for investment as provided by
13 ORS 293.701 to 293.820 and for the payment of expenses of the commission in carrying out the pur-
14 poses of ORS 348.625 to 348.695. This fund, including the interest earnings on the fund, if any, is
15 continuously appropriated to the commission for those purposes for which such funds were provided
16 to, received or collected by the commission.

17 (3)(a) There is established in the General Fund an account to be known as the Nursing Services
18 Account. Funds in the account shall be used for the payment of expenses of the Nursing Services
19 Program created in ORS 442.540.

20 (b) The account shall consist of:

21 (A) Funds appropriated to the Oregon Student Assistance Commission for deposit into the ac-
22 count;

23 (B) Collections and penalties received by the commission under ORS 442.545; and

24 (C) Any donations or grants received by the commission for purposes of the Nursing Services
25 Program.

26 (c) Any funds in the account that are not expended in any biennium shall be retained in the
27 account and may be expended in the next biennium.

28 (4) There is established in the State Treasury a fund, separate and distinct from the General
29 Fund, to be known as the Former Foster Youth Scholarship Fund. Moneys received from appropri-
30 ations, donations and grants shall be credited to the fund. Moneys in the fund are continuously ap-
31 propriated to the Oregon Student Assistance Commission for the purposes of investment, as provided
32 by ORS 293.701 to 293.820, and for carrying out the provisions of ORS 348.270 (1)(b). Interest earned
33 by the fund shall be credited to the fund.

34 (5) There is established in the State Treasury a fund, separate and distinct from the General
35 Fund, to be known as the ASPIRE Program Fund. Moneys received from donations and grants shall
36 be credited to the ASPIRE Program Fund. Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the
37 Oregon Student Assistance Commission for the purposes of investment, as provided by ORS 293.701
38 to 293.820, and for carrying out the provisions of ORS 348.500. Interest earned by the fund shall be
39 credited to the fund.

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