

# House Bill 2756

Sponsored by Representatives BUCKLEY, KOMP, BAILEY; Representative RICHARDSON

## 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 higher education scholarship program to reward foreign language proficiency and encourage continued improvement in foreign language proficiency.

Establishes Oregon Roadmap to Language Excellence Fund. Continuously appropriates moneys in fund to Oregon Student Assistance Commission for purposes of scholarship awards.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to higher education scholarships for language proficiency; creating new provisions;  
3 amending ORS 348.180 and 348.570; and appropriating money.

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

5 **SECTION 1. (1) In addition to any other form of student financial aid authorized by law,**  
6 **the Oregon Student Assistance Commission may award, to the extent funds are made avail-**  
7 **able, an Oregon Roadmap to Language Excellence Scholarship to a qualified student.**

8 **(2) The Oregon Student Assistance Commission may:**

9 **(a) Award an initial Oregon Roadmap to Language Excellence Scholarship for up to \$2,000**  
10 **to a qualified student who:**

11 **(A) Is a United States citizen or a noncitizen legally residing in the United States;**

12 **(B) Has received a diploma from a high school in this state or the equivalent during the**  
13 **academic year prior to the award of the initial scholarship;**

14 **(C) Is attending an eligible post-secondary institution;**

15 **(D) Is pursuing an Associate of Arts or more advanced degree; and**

16 **(E) Demonstrates proficiency in speaking, reading and writing in a language other than**  
17 **English, excluding computer-based languages, musical notation and Esperanto.**

18 **(b) Award a subsequent Oregon Roadmap to Language Excellence Scholarship for up to**  
19 **\$2,000 to a student receiving a scholarship under paragraph (a) of this subsection who has**  
20 **demonstrated a measurable gain of proficiency in speaking, reading and writing skills in the**  
21 **same language for which the scholarship was awarded during the previous academic year.**

22 **(c) Award a reduced subsequent Oregon Roadmap to Language Excellence Scholarship to**  
23 **a student receiving a scholarship under paragraph (a) of this subsection who has not dem-**  
24 **onstrated a measurable gain of proficiency in speaking, reading and writing skills in the same**  
25 **language for which the scholarship was awarded during the previous academic year. The re-**  
26 **duced scholarship is for \$500 less than the amount of the scholarship awarded the previous**  
27 **academic year. The commission may not award a reduced subsequent scholarship for con-**  
28 **secutive academic years.**

29 **(3) The maximum amount of scholarships awarded to a person under this section may**  
30 **not exceed \$8,000.**

**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 (4) The commission may award scholarships under this section to a person for the year  
 2 of the initial scholarship and the next three consecutive years.

3 (5) The commission may not award scholarships under this section to a student who is  
 4 enrolled in a course of study required for and leading to a degree in theology, divinity or  
 5 religious education.

6 (6) The commission shall adopt rules:

7 (a) Establishing priority for Oregon Roadmap to Language Excellence Scholarships when  
 8 funds are not available to award scholarships to all qualified students; and

9 (b) Setting standards for appropriate levels of language proficiency and improved lan-  
 10 guage proficiency needed for eligible students to qualify for scholarships under this section.

11 **SECTION 2.** ORS 348.180 is amended to read:

12 348.180. As used in this section and ORS [348.183,] 348.186, 348.205, 348.230, 348.250 and 348.260  
 13 and section 1 of this 2009 Act:

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

15 (2) "Eligible post-secondary institution" means:

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

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

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

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

20 (3) "Qualified student" means any resident student who plans to attend an eligible post-  
 21 secondary institution and who:

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

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

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

26 **SECTION 3.** ORS 348.570 is amended to read:

27 348.570. (1) There is established in the State Treasury a fund, separate and distinct from the  
 28 General Fund, to be known as the Oregon Student Assistance Fund for investment as provided by  
 29 ORS 293.701 to 293.820 and for the payment of the expenses of the Oregon Student Assistance  
 30 Commission in carrying out the purposes of ORS 348.210 to 348.250, 348.505 to 348.615, 348.696 and  
 31 348.992. Interest earned by the fund shall be credited to the fund.

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

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

41 (b) The account shall consist of:

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

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

45 (C) Any donations or grants received by the commission for purposes of the Nursing Services

1 Program.

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

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

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

16 **(6)(a) There is established in the State Treasury a fund, separate and distinct from the**  
17 **General Fund, to be known as the Oregon Roadmap to Language Excellence Fund. Moneys**  
18 **in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Student Assistance Commission for**  
19 **the purposes described in section 1 of this 2009 Act.**

20 **(b) The fund shall consist of:**

21 **(A) Moneys appropriated to the Oregon Student Assistance Commission for deposit into**  
22 **the fund; and**

23 **(B) Any donations or grants received by the commission for the purposes described in**  
24 **section 1 of this 2009 Act.**

25 **(c) Interest earned by the fund shall be credited to the fund.**

26