

# House Bill 2303

Ordered printed by the Speaker pursuant to House Rule 12.00A (5). Pre-session filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Education)

## 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**.

Clarifies that person may receive financial assistance from Oregon Student Assistance Commission if person has high school completion credential other than high school diploma.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to financial assistance provided by the Oregon Student Assistance Commission; amending  
3 ORS 348.040, 348.180, 348.186 and 348.270; and declaring an emergency.

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 post-secondary institution" means:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 (c) Is making satisfactory academic progress [*as defined by rule of the commission.*], **which shall**  
19 **be determined by the commission by rule with consideration given to the person's efforts**  
20 **towards earning:**

21 (A) **A high school diploma, a modified diploma, an extended diploma, a General Educa-**  
22 **tional Development (GED) certificate or an equivalent credential, if the person has not**  
23 **started coursework at an eligible post-secondary institution; or**

24 (B) **An associate or a baccalaureate degree, if the person has started coursework at the**  
25 **eligible post-secondary institution.**

26 **SECTION 2.** ORS 348.040 is amended to read:

27 348.040. As used in ORS 348.040 to 348.070, unless the context requires otherwise:

28 (1) "Commission" means the Oregon Student Assistance Commission.

29 (2) "Eligible student" means a person who **meets all of the following:**

30 (a) **The person** is a resident of this state, as determined by the Oregon Student Assistance

**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 Commission, at the time of application for a loan under ORS 348.040 to 348.070[.].

2 [(a)] (b) [Who] **The person** is enrolled in or has applied for enrollment in a qualified school[.].

3 [(b)] (c) [Who] **The person** has demonstrated a satisfactory level of achievement [*in the high*  
4 *school or other school on the record of which the application for enrollment is based or in which the*  
5 *applicant is enrolled; and*] **to indicate the potential for a satisfactory level of achievement at**  
6 **a qualified school, which shall be determined by the commission by rule with consideration**  
7 **given to the person's efforts towards earning a high school diploma, a modified diploma, an**  
8 **extended diploma, a General Educational Development (GED) certificate or an equivalent**  
9 **credential.**

10 [(c)] (d) [Who] **The person** can show the necessity for financial assistance in order to continue  
11 the applicant's education.

12 (3) "Qualified school" means a school within this state which is a:

13 (a) Four-year, nonprofit, generally accredited institution of higher education;

14 (b) Accredited public or private community college or education center, or one recognized by a  
15 state educational agency;

16 (c) Career school that is approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction;

17 (d) Medical or dental program offered by the Oregon Health and Science University;

18 (e) Veterinary program offered by Oregon State University; or

19 (f) Institution which is, in the opinion of the commission, comparable to such institutions, col-  
20 leges, centers or schools.

21 (4) When the commission certifies that the course is not available within this state, a qualified  
22 school may include an institution, college, center or school not located in this state.

23 **SECTION 3.** ORS 348.186 is amended to read:

24 348.186. (1) In addition to any other form of student financial aid authorized by law, the Oregon  
25 Student Assistance Commission shall award, to the extent funds are made available, an Oregon  
26 Achievement Grant to any qualified student who:

27 (a) Commences at least half-time study toward a degree at the eligible post-secondary institution  
28 within three years of [*high school graduation*] **receiving a high school diploma, a modified di-**  
29 **ploma, an extended diploma, a General Educational Development (GED) certificate or an**  
30 **equivalent credential;** and

31 (b) While a resident of Oregon, has scored at or above a level on a nationally recognized college  
32 admissions test as determined by the Oregon Student Assistance Commission.

33 (2) Any qualified student receiving an Oregon Achievement Grant under subsection (1) of this  
34 section must use the grant for the purpose of study in an eligible program, as defined by rule of the  
35 Oregon Student Assistance Commission, at an eligible post-secondary institution.

36 (3) The Oregon Student Assistance Commission may not award an Oregon Achievement Grant  
37 to a qualified student who is enrolled in a course of study required for and leading to a degree in  
38 theology, divinity or religious education.

39 (4) Each Oregon Achievement Grant shall be renewed yearly provided that the recipient has  
40 maintained satisfactory progress toward a first associate or baccalaureate degree as determined by  
41 the Oregon Student Assistance Commission.

42 (5) Notwithstanding subsection (4) of this section, no Oregon Achievement Grant shall be re-  
43 newed after a qualified student has reached the number of credit hours required to graduate with  
44 a baccalaureate degree at the institution the student is attending.

45 **SECTION 4.** ORS 348.270 is amended to read:

1 348.270. (1) In addition to any other scholarships provided by law, the Oregon Student Assist-  
 2 ance Commission shall award scholarships in any state institution under the State Board of Higher  
 3 Education, in the Oregon Health and Science University, in any community college operated under  
 4 ORS chapter 341, or in any Oregon-based regionally accredited independent institution, to any stu-  
 5 dent applying for enrollment or who is enrolled therein, who is:

6 (a) The natural child, adopted child or stepchild of any public safety officer who, in the line of  
 7 duty, was killed or so disabled, as determined by the Oregon Student Assistance Commission, that  
 8 the income of the public safety officer is less than that earned by public safety officers performing  
 9 duties comparable to those performed at the highest rank or grade attained by the public safety of-  
 10 ficer; or

11 (b) A former foster child who enrolls in an institution of higher education as an undergraduate  
 12 student not later than three years from **the earliest of** the date **that** the student:

13 **(A)** Was removed from the care of the Department of Human Services[, *the date the student*  
 14 *graduated from high school or the date the student received the equivalent of a high school diploma,*  
 15 *whichever date is earliest*]; or

16 **(B) Received a high school diploma, a modified diploma, an extended diploma, a General**  
 17 **Educational Development (GED) certificate or an equivalent credential.**

18 (2) Scholarships awarded under this section to students who are dependents of public safety of-  
 19 ficers or who are former foster children shall equal the amount of tuition and all fees levied by the  
 20 institution against the recipient of the scholarship. However, scholarships awarded to students who  
 21 attend independent institutions shall not exceed the amount of tuition and all fees levied by the  
 22 University of Oregon.

23 (3) If the student who is the dependent of a deceased public safety officer continues to remain  
 24 enrolled in a state institution of higher education or a community college or an independent insti-  
 25 tution within the State of Oregon, the student shall be entitled to renewal of the scholarship until  
 26 the student has received the equivalent of four years of undergraduate education and four years of  
 27 post-graduate education.

28 (4) If the student who is a former foster child or who is the dependent of a public safety officer  
 29 with a disability continues to remain enrolled in a state institution of higher education or a com-  
 30 munity college or an independent institution within the State of Oregon, the student shall be entitled  
 31 to renewal of the scholarship until the student has received the equivalent of four years of under-  
 32 graduate education.

33 (5) The Oregon Student Assistance Commission may require proof of the student's relationship  
 34 to a public safety officer described in subsection (1) of this section or proof that the student is a  
 35 former foster child.

36 (6) As used in this section:

37 (a) "Former foster child" means an individual who, for a total of 12 or more months while be-  
 38 tween the ages of 16 and 21, was a ward of the court pursuant to ORS 419B.100 (1)(b) to (e) and in  
 39 the legal custody of the Department of Human Services for out-of-home placement.

40 (b) "Public safety officer" means:

41 (A) A firefighter or police officer as those terms are defined in ORS 237.610.

42 (B) A member of the Oregon State Police.

43 **SECTION 5. This 2011 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**  
 44 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2011 Act takes effect**  
 45 **on its passage.**

