## Senate Bill 322

Sponsored by Senator HASS; Senators BATES, ROBLAN, Representative READ) (Presession filed.)

## **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 funding mechanism for fifth year high school programs. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

- Relating to fifth year high school programs; creating new provisions; amending ORS 348.180; and declaring an emergency.
- 4 Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:
- 5 SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2015 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 327.006 to 327.133.
  - SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section, "fifth year high school program" means a program in which a student who has satisfied the requirements for a diploma established by the State Board of Education under ORS 329.451:
    - (a) Does not receive a diploma;
    - (b) Remains enrolled at a school district;
    - (c) Attends a community college for at least half of the student's coursework; and
  - (d) Has some or all of the student's tuition, fees and books for coursework at the community college paid by the school district where the student is enrolled.
  - (2) Notwithstanding ORS 327.006 (1), calculations of aggregate days membership may not include students who are participating in a fifth year high school program.
  - (3) For each student participating in a fifth year high school program, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall distribute to the school district where the student is enrolled:
  - (a) \$4,500 per school year if the student enrolls at a community college for at least 45 quarter credits for the school year, which shall be prorated if the student enrolls for fewer than 45 quarter credits; and
  - (b) \$500 per school year if the student earns at least 30 quarter credits for the school year or \$1,000 per school year if the student earns at least 30 quarter credits for the school year and is an underserved student, as defined by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission by rule.
  - (4) In addition to distributions made as provided by subsection (3) of this section, the superintendent shall deposit \$50 for each credit earned by a student, up to a maximum of 45 quarter credits, to an account established for the benefit of the student under section 5 of this 2015 Act.
  - (5) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules necessary for the administration of this section, including establishing schedules for distributing and depositing moneys.

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SECTION 3. Section 2 of this 2015 Act applies to State School Fund distributions commencing with the 2015-2016 distributions.

**SECTION 4.** ORS 348.180 is amended to read:

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4 348.180. As used in this section and ORS 348.186, 348.205, 348.230, 348.250, 348.260 and 348.285 5 **and section 5 of this 2015 Act**:

- (1) "Cost of education" includes but is not limited to, tuition, fees and living expenses.
- (2) "Eligible post-secondary institution" means:
- (a) A public university listed in ORS 352.002;
- (b) A community college operated under ORS chapter 341;
- 10 (c) The Oregon Health and Science University; or
  - (d) An Oregon-based, generally accredited, not-for-profit institution of higher education.
  - (3) "Qualified student" means any resident student who plans to attend an eligible postsecondary institution and who:
    - (a) Has not achieved a baccalaureate or higher degree from any post-secondary institution;
  - (b) Is enrolled in an eligible program as defined by rule of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission; and
    - (c) Is making satisfactory academic progress as defined by rule of the commission.
  - SECTION 5. (1) In addition to any other form of student financial aid authorized by law, qualified students who participated in a fifth year high school program under section 2 of this 2015 Act shall have access to an individual account to pay for the cost of education at an eligible post-secondary institution.
  - (2) All accounts for participants in fifth year high school programs shall be administered by the Office of Student Access and Completion.
    - (3) Any interest earned on amounts in an account shall be credited to the account.
  - (4) Separate records and accounting are required for each account and reports shall be made no less frequently than annually to the student in whose name the account is established.
  - (5) An account and any interest in the account may not be assignable or pledged or otherwise used to secure or obtain a loan or other advancement.
  - (6) The rights to an account shall be exempt from garnishment and may not be subject to execution, attachment or any other process or to the operation of any bankruptcy or insolvency law.
  - (7) Any moneys in an account that are not used within five years after the last deposit in the account shall revert to the General Fund.
  - (8) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission may adopt any rules necessary for the administration of this section.
  - <u>SECTION 6.</u> This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect on its passage.

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