

House Bill 4076

Sponsored by Representative JOHNSON; Representatives MCKEOWN, WHISNANT (Pre-session 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**.

Directs Office of Student Access and Completion to provide support services to enable students to be successful in Oregon Promise program.

Takes effect July 1, 2016.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to enabling students to be successful in the Oregon Promise program; amending ORS
3 341.522; and prescribing an effective date.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 341.522 is amended to read:

6 341.522. (1) The Office of Student Access and Completion shall administer the Oregon Promise
7 program as provided by this section.

8 (2) Subject to subsections (5) and (6) of this section, the office shall provide a waiver of tuition
9 for community college courses to a person who meets the criteria described in subsections (3) and
10 (4) of this section. The waiver shall be a grant and limited as provided by subsections (5) and (6)
11 of this section.

12 (3) A grant shall be awarded under this section to a person who meets the following criteria:

13 (a) Is enrolled in courses that are:

14 (A) Offered at a community college in this state; and

15 (B) Determined by the office, in accordance with rules adopted by the Higher Education Coor-
16 dinating Commission, to be required for completion of:

17 (i) A one-year curriculum for students who plan to transfer to another post-secondary institution
18 of education;

19 (ii) An associate degree; or

20 (iii) A program in career and technical education;

21 (b) Has been a resident of this state for at least 12 months prior to enrolling in the courses
22 described in paragraph (a) of this subsection;

23 (c) Attained the person's highest level of education in this state prior to:

24 (A) Receiving a diploma under ORS 329.451;

25 (B) Receiving a General Educational Development (GED) certificate as provided by ORS 350.175;

26 or

27 (C) Completing grade 12 in compliance with the requirements of ORS 339.035;

28 (d) Attained the person's highest level of education as described in paragraph (c) of this sub-
29 section within six months from the date that the person first enrolls in courses described in para-
30 graph (a) of this subsection for the purpose of receiving a grant under this section;

31 (e) Earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better in high school or otherwise dem-

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 onstrated an equivalent academic ability, as determined by the office according to rules adopted by
 2 the commission;

3 (f) Completed and submitted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for each academic
 4 year and accepted all state and federal aid grants available to the person, if eligible to file the ap-
 5 plication; and

6 (g) Has not completed either of the following:

7 (A) More than a total of 90 credit hours, or the equivalent, at a post-secondary institution of
 8 education; or

9 (B) A curriculum, degree or program, as described in paragraph (a)(B) of this subsection.

10 (4)(a) A person continues to remain eligible to receive a grant under this section if the person,
 11 in addition to satisfying the criteria specified in subsection (3) of this section, meets the following
 12 criteria:

13 (A) Maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better during each term for which the
 14 person has received a grant under this section;

15 (B) Makes satisfactory progress toward a curriculum, degree or program, as described in sub-
 16 section (3)(a)(B) of this section, as determined by the office according to rules adopted by the com-
 17 mission; and

18 (C) Enrolls in courses described in subsection (3)(a) of this section for a sufficient number of
 19 credit hours to be considered at least a half-time student each term for at least three terms in each
 20 consecutive academic year.

21 (b) A person who fails to maintain the cumulative grade point average specified in paragraph
 22 (a)(A) of this subsection becomes ineligible to receive a grant under this section for the term after
 23 which the person fails to maintain the cumulative grade point average, unless the eligibility re-
 24 quirement of paragraph (a)(A) of this subsection is waived by the office according to rules adopted
 25 by the commission.

26 (5)(a) The total amount of a grant awarded under this section shall be based on each term that
 27 a person is enrolled in courses described in subsection (3)(a) of this section. After the amount of
 28 tuition for the person for the term is reduced by \$50, to be paid by the person, and reduced by any
 29 amounts received by the person in state and federal aid grants, the person shall be eligible for a
 30 grant under this section in an amount that equals:

31 (A) Except as provided by paragraph (b) of this subsection, not less than the greater of:

32 (i) \$1,000; and

33 (ii) The person's actual cost for tuition.

34 (B) Not more than the lesser of:

35 (i) The average cost of tuition at a community college in this state, as determined by the office;
 36 and

37 (ii) The person's actual cost for tuition.

38 (b) The minimum amount of a grant, as calculated under paragraph (a) of this subsection, may
 39 be prorated for a person who is enrolled in courses described in subsection (3)(a) of this section for
 40 a sufficient number of credit hours to be considered at least a half-time student but not a full-time
 41 student.

42 (c) The commission may prescribe by rule whether to include fees, and any limitations related
 43 to the inclusion of fees, when determining the actual cost of tuition or the average cost of tuition
 44 under this subsection.

45 (6) The total amount in grants awarded under this section by the office may not exceed \$10

1 million per fiscal year, or any lesser amount available to the office for the purpose of this section.
 2 The commission may adopt by rule the priority by which grants are awarded, which may allow for
 3 preference to be given to persons enrolled in school districts or high schools that meet specified
 4 criteria.

5 (7) The commission shall adopt any rules necessary for the administration of this section, in-
 6 cluding any requirements related to:

7 (a) Specifying the form and timelines for submitting an application for a grant under this section;

8 (b) Determining whether a person is eligible for a grant under this section, including whether
 9 the person shall be given priority as allowed under subsection (6) of this section;

10 (c) Implementing programs or policies that improve the academic success or completion rates for
 11 persons who receive a grant under this section;

12 (d) Prescribing eligibility requirements and grant calculations for persons dually enrolled in a
 13 community college and a public university; and

14 (e) Evaluating the impact of the program established under this section, including any require-
 15 ments for reporting data needed for evaluations.

16 **(8)(a) The office shall provide support services to persons who:**

17 **(A) Have not yet attained the highest level of education described in subsection (3)(c) of**
 18 **this section and who may become eligible to receive a grant under this section upon attain-**
 19 **ment of the highest level of education described in subsection (3)(c) of this section; or**

20 **(B) Are enrolled in a community college in this state and who are eligible for a grant**
 21 **under this section or have received a grant under this section.**

22 **(b) The support services provided under this subsection must be tailored to help persons**
 23 **transition from high school to community college and achieve success at a post-secondary**
 24 **institution of higher education.**

25 [(8)] **(9)** No later than December 31 of each even-numbered year, the commission shall submit
 26 to an interim legislative committee related to education a report that summarizes the commission's
 27 findings on the impact of the program established under this section. The report shall include:

28 (a) Student completion rates of curricula, degrees and programs described in subsection (3)(a)(B)
 29 of this section;

30 (b) The amount of federal aid grants received by persons who received a grant under this sec-
 31 tion;

32 (c) The financial impact of the program on school districts that had students receive a grant
 33 under this section;

34 (d) The financial impact and the enrollment impact of the program on community colleges and
 35 public universities in this state; and

36 (e) The overall success rate of the program and financial impact of the program.

37 **SECTION 2. This 2016 Act takes effect July 1, 2016.**