

Senate Bill 1537

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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 criteria by which school district may establish post-graduate scholar program to receive and expend certain State School Fund moneys for certain students who have satisfied requirements for high school diploma.

Directs Department of Education and Higher Education Coordinating Commission to submit reports related to programs to interim legislative committees on education.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to payment for community college courses by school districts; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2016 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 327.006 to**
5 **327.133.**

6 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section, "post-graduate scholar" means a student who:**

7 **(a) Has been in grades 9 through 12 for more than a total of four school years; and**

8 **(b) Has satisfied the requirements for a high school diploma as provided in ORS 329.451**

9 **(2).**

10 **(2) A school district may establish a program under this section to allow:**

11 **(a) A post-graduate scholar who satisfies the requirements of subsection (3) of this sec-**
12 **tion to:**

13 **(A) Enroll in courses at a community college for one school year after the post-graduate**
14 **scholar has satisfied the requirements for a high school diploma as provided in ORS 329.451**
15 **(2); and**

16 **(B) Have the school district pay the costs incurred for the courses described in subpar-**
17 **agraph (A) of this paragraph, including tuition, fees and books.**

18 **(b) A school district that satisfies the requirements of subsection (4) of this section to**
19 **receive and expend moneys distributed from the State School Fund under ORS 327.013 for the**
20 **purpose of paying the costs described in paragraph (a)(B) of this subsection.**

21 **(3) A post-graduate scholar qualifies to participate in a program established under this**
22 **section if the post-graduate scholar:**

23 **(a) Has completed and submitted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, if eligible**
24 **to file the application;**

25 **(b) Is not eligible for a grant under the Oregon Promise program described in ORS 341.522**
26 **because of failure to earn the minimum cumulative grade point average, or applied for but**
27 **did not receive a grant under the Oregon Promise program; and**

28 **(c) Retains a legal residence within the boundaries of the school district through which**

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 the post-graduate scholar satisfied the requirements for a high school diploma.

2 (4) A school district may receive and expend moneys distributed from the State School
3 Fund under ORS 327.013 for a program established under this section if the school district
4 meets all of the following criteria:

5 (a) Has a policy for the program that is adopted by the school district board and that
6 describes:

7 (A) The goals of the program, including target high school graduation rates for under-
8 served students;

9 (B) Minimum requirements for grade point average, attendance and participation in reg-
10 ular in-person meetings with school district staff to monitor student progress; and

11 (C) The manner by which the results of the program will be measured and monitored.

12 (b) Enters into a written agreement with the community college that has a service area
13 within which the school district is located.

14 (c) Has dedicated staff to provide support services to post-graduate scholars, including
15 regular in-person meetings to monitor student progress that occur at least twice each
16 month.

17 (d) Ensures that a majority of students from the school district who are enrolled in
18 courses at a community college meet at least one of the criteria identified in this paragraph.

19 The student:

20 (A) Is not a post-graduate scholar;

21 (B) Has received a modified diploma, an extended diploma or a General Educational De-
22 velopment (GED) certificate;

23 (C) Was enrolled in an alternative high school program within the preceding 12 months;

24 (D) Is, or will be, a first-generation graduate of high school;

25 (E) Will be a first-generation graduate of an institution of higher education;

26 (F) Is, or has been, a child in a foster home;

27 (G) Is, or has been, placed in a facility or an education program by a court;

28 (H) Is homeless;

29 (I) Is a parent; or

30 (J) Was identified as eligible for free or reduced price lunches within the preceding 12
31 months.

32 (e) Submits an annual report to the Department of Education by September 1 of each
33 year that provides the following information from the preceding school year:

34 (A) The number of post-graduate scholars enrolled in the school district;

35 (B) The number of post-graduate scholars who completed the full school year in the
36 program;

37 (C) The average number of community college credits earned by students who completed
38 a full school year in the program; and

39 (D) The percentage of post-graduate scholars who enrolled in a second school year of
40 post-secondary education after completing the program.

41 (5) Notwithstanding ORS 327.013, the weighted average daily membership assigned for
42 each post-graduate scholar shall be adjusted as follows:

43 (a) By subtracting 0.25 from the average daily membership assigned for each post-
44 graduate scholar participating in the program established under this section; and

45 (b) Without adding any amounts identified in ORS 327.013 (1)(c)(A).

1 (6) For purposes of this section, a school district may not counsel or assist a student to
 2 delay receiving a high school diploma for the purpose of participating in a school-sponsored,
 3 post-secondary education program.

4 (7) Nothing in this section:

5 (a) Prohibits a school district from receiving or expending moneys related to the educa-
 6 tion of post-graduate scholars that are not received or expended for purposes of this section,
 7 as long as the school district does not receive or expend State School Fund distributions
 8 under ORS 327.013 for those purposes.

9 (b) Requires a post-graduate scholar to accept or use any federal grant moneys to offset
 10 costs of tuition, fees or books incurred by a post-graduate scholar at a community college.

11 (8) Notwithstanding subsection (3) of this section, a post-graduate scholar may not accept
 12 or use any federal grant moneys to offset costs of tuition, fees or books incurred by a post-
 13 graduate scholar at a community college.

14 **SECTION 3.** Section 2 of this 2016 Act applies to State School Fund distributions com-
 15 mencing with the 2016-2017 distributions.

16 **SECTION 4.** (1) Notwithstanding section 2 (4)(e) of this 2016 Act, a school district is not
 17 required to submit the first report until September 1, 2017.

18 (2) Notwithstanding section 2 (5)(a) of this 2016 Act, the weighted average daily mem-
 19 bership assigned for each post-graduate scholar shall be adjusted as follows:

20 (a) For the 2016-2017 school year, no subtraction shall be made.

21 (b) For the 2017-2018 school year, by subtracting 0.15.

22 **SECTION 5.** No later than November 1, 2018, the Department of Education shall:

23 (1) Provide a report to the interim legislative committees on education that includes:

24 (a) A compilation of the data provided by school districts under section 2 (4)(e) of this
 25 2016 Act.

26 (b) The amount of moneys received by school districts from the State School Fund under
 27 ORS 327.013 for post-graduate scholars participating in a program established under section
 28 2 of this 2016 Act.

29 (c) Subject to data available to the department, the number of post-graduate scholars for
 30 whom school districts received moneys from the State School Fund under ORS 327.013 for
 31 each of the preceding school years.

32 (2) Make recommendations about the appropriate additional amount to be calculated for
 33 each post-graduate scholar participating in a program established under section 2 of this 2016
 34 Act for purposes of calculating weighted average daily membership for State School Fund
 35 distributions under ORS 327.013. The recommendations must consider:

36 (a) Input from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission;

37 (b) The amount of moneys received by all school districts from the State School Fund
 38 under ORS 327.013 for post-graduate scholars; and

39 (c) Any alternate funding sources for the costs of post-secondary education that are
 40 available to students who:

41 (A) Are not eligible for the Oregon Promise program under ORS 341.522 because of failure
 42 to earn the minimum cumulative grade point average; or

43 (B) Do not receive a grant under the Oregon Promise program because of a lack of ade-
 44 quate funding to provide grants to all students who are eligible for a grant under the pro-
 45 gram.

1 **SECTION 6.** No later than November 1, 2018, the Higher Education Coordinating Com-
2 mission shall make a report to the interim legislative committees on education that includes
3 the costs incurred by community colleges and the amounts received by community colleges
4 for post-graduate scholars who participated in a program established under section 2 of this
5 2016 Act. Community colleges shall cooperate with the commission for the purpose of making
6 the report required by this section.

7 **SECTION 7.** This 2016 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
8 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2016 Act takes effect
9 on its passage.

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