

House Bill 3290

Sponsored by Representative WHISNANT

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**.

Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to recognize and endorse online, competency-based education as important component of Oregon's system of higher education and to select regionally accredited nonprofit online baccalaureate degree granting institution of higher education to work with and to integrate programs and services of institution into Oregon's higher education policy and strategy.

Extends eligibility for receiving Oregon financial aid scholarships and grants to students attending institution selected by commission.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to nonprofit online universities; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 348.180,
3 348.270, 348.272, 348.282 and 348.283.

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

5 **SECTION 1. (1) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall:**

6 (a) **Recognize and endorse online, competency-based education as an important compo-**
7 **nent of Oregon's system of higher education;**

8 (b) **Select, by rule, a regionally accredited nonprofit online baccalaureate degree granting**
9 **institution of higher education;**

10 (c) **Work to eliminate unnecessary barriers to the delivery of education programs pro-**
11 **vided by the institution selected under paragraph (b) of this subsection; and**

12 (d) **Work with the institution selected under paragraph (b) of this subsection to integrate**
13 **the academic programs and services of the institution into Oregon's higher education policy**
14 **and strategy.**

15 (2) **The commission shall work with the institution selected under subsection (1) of this**
16 **section to create data-sharing processes to assess the institution's performance and deter-**
17 **mine the extent to which the institution helps the state achieve the goals and mission of**
18 **higher education set forth in ORS 350.009 and 350.014.**

19 (3) **The commission shall adopt rules that require the institution selected under sub-**
20 **section (1) of this section to consult with the commission before:**

21 (a) **Modifying the contractual terms or relationship between the commission and the in-**
22 **stitution;**

23 (b) **Changing or modifying the nonprofit status of the institution; or**

24 (c) **Engaging in internal managerial or administrative restructuring of the institution.**

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

26 348.180. As used in this section and ORS 348.205, 348.250, 348.260, 348.263 and 348.285:

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

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

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 (a) A public university listed in ORS 352.002;
- 2 (b) A community college operated under ORS chapter 341;
- 3 (c) The Oregon Health and Science University; *[or]*
- 4 (d) An Oregon-based, generally accredited, not-for-profit institution of higher education; **or**
- 5 **(e) A regionally accredited nonprofit online baccalaureate degree granting institution of**
- 6 **higher education selected by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission under section**
- 7 **1 of this 2017 Act.**

8 (3) “Qualified student” means any resident student, or student exempted from paying nonresident
9 tuition under ORS 352.287, who plans to attend an eligible post-secondary institution and who:

- 10 (a) Has not achieved a baccalaureate or higher degree from any post-secondary institution;
- 11 (b) Is enrolled in an eligible program as defined by rule of the *[Higher Education Coordinating]*
- 12 *commission*; and
- 13 (c) Is making satisfactory academic progress as defined by rule of the commission.

14 **SECTION 3.** ORS 348.283 is amended to read:

15 348.283. (1) There is established within the Higher Education Coordinating Commission the
16 Oregon Troops to Teachers program. Through the program, the commission shall pay for all of the
17 resident tuition charges of a veteran imposed by a public post-secondary institution **or a regionally**
18 **accredited nonprofit online baccalaureate degree granting institution of higher education**
19 **selected by the commission under section 1 of this 2017 Act**, provided the veteran:

- 20 (a) Was discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States;
- 21 (b) Is a resident of Oregon or is exempted from paying nonresident tuition under ORS 352.287;
- 22 and
- 23 (c) Agrees to teach:
 - 24 (A) In an Oregon school district or public charter school classified as serving a high poverty
 - 25 area for not less than three years; or
 - 26 (B) In the area of mathematics, science or special education for not less than four years.

27 (2) An award under subsection (1) of this section shall be used for the purpose of paying resident
28 tuition. The commission may not award funds under subsection (1) of this section for the purpose
29 of paying for books, supplies, housing, food or any other costs associated with attending a public
30 post-secondary institution.

31 (3) The commission shall adopt rules necessary for the implementation and administration of this
32 section in consultation with the Department of Education and the public universities listed in ORS
33 352.002.

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

35 348.270. (1) In addition to any other scholarships provided by law, the Higher Education Coor-
36 dinating Commission shall award scholarships to any individual applying for enrollment or enrolled
37 in an institution of higher education who is the natural child, adopted child or stepchild of any
38 public safety officer, reserve officer or volunteer firefighter who, in the line of duty, was killed or
39 so disabled, as determined by the Executive Director of the Office of Student Access and Com-
40 pletion, that:

- 41 (a) The income of the public safety officer is less than that earned by public safety officers
- 42 performing duties comparable to those performed at the highest rank or grade attained by the public
- 43 safety officer; or
- 44 (b) The income of the reserve officer or volunteer firefighter working in their primary profession
- 45 or type of employment is less than that earned by individuals in the same profession or type of

1 employment with similar levels of education and experience.

2 (2) Except as provided in this subsection, scholarships awarded under this section shall be in
 3 an amount equal to the amount of tuition and all fees levied by the institution of higher education
 4 against the recipient of the scholarship. Scholarships awarded to students who attend independent
 5 institutions may not exceed the amount of tuition and all fees levied by the University of Oregon.

6 (3) If a student who is the dependent of a deceased public safety officer, reserve officer or vol-
 7 unteer firefighter continues to remain enrolled in a public university listed in ORS 352.002, a com-
 8 munity college, [or] an Oregon-based, regionally accredited independent institution **or a regionally**
 9 **accredited nonprofit online baccalaureate degree granting institution of higher education**
 10 **selected by the commission under section 1 of this 2017 Act**, the student is entitled to renewal
 11 of the scholarship until the student has received the equivalent of four years of undergraduate ed-
 12 ucation and four years of post-graduate education.

13 (4) If a student who is the dependent of a public safety officer, reserve officer or volunteer
 14 firefighter with a disability continues to remain enrolled in a public university listed in ORS 352.002,
 15 a community college, [or] an Oregon-based, regionally accredited independent institution **or a re-**
 16 **gionally accredited nonprofit online baccalaureate degree granting institution of higher edu-**
 17 **cation selected by the commission under section 1 of this 2017 Act**, the student is entitled to
 18 renewal of the scholarship until the student has received the equivalent of four years of under-
 19 graduate education.

20 (5) The Executive Director of the Office of Student Access and Completion may require proof
 21 of a student’s relationship to a public safety officer, reserve officer or volunteer firefighter described
 22 in subsection (1) of this section.

23 (6) As used in this section:

24 (a) “Institution of higher education” means a public university listed in ORS 352.002, the Oregon
 25 Health and Science University, a community college operated under ORS chapter 341, [or] an
 26 Oregon-based, regionally accredited independent institution **or a regionally accredited nonprofit**
 27 **online baccalaureate degree granting institution of higher education selected by the com-**
 28 **mission under section 1 of this 2017 Act.**

29 (b) “Public safety officer” means:

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

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

32 (C) A police officer commissioned by a university under ORS 352.121 or 353.125.

33 (D) An authorized tribal police officer as defined in ORS 181A.680.

34 (c) “Reserve officer” has the meaning given that term in ORS 133.005.

35 (d) “Volunteer firefighter” has the meaning given that term in ORS 652.050.

36 **SECTION 5.** ORS 348.272 is amended to read:

37 348.272. (1) As used in this section:

38 (a) “Former foster child” has the meaning given that term in ORS 350.300.

39 (b) “Institution of higher education” means a public university listed in ORS 352.002, the Oregon
 40 Health and Science University, a community college operated under ORS chapter 341, [or] an
 41 Oregon-based, regionally accredited independent institution **or a regionally accredited nonprofit**
 42 **online baccalaureate degree granting institution of higher education selected by the Higher**
 43 **Education Coordinating Commission under section 1 of this 2017 Act.**

44 (2) In addition to any other scholarships provided by law, the [*Higher Education Coordinating*]
 45 commission shall award scholarships to any individual applying for enrollment or enrolled in an in-

1 stitution of higher education who is a current foster child or former foster child.

2 (3) Scholarships awarded under this section shall be in an amount to be determined by the
3 commission based on the funds that are made available for the awarding year.

4 (4) If a student who is a current foster child or former foster child continues to remain enrolled
5 in a public university listed in ORS 352.002, a community college, [or] an Oregon-based, regionally
6 accredited independent institution **or a regionally accredited nonprofit online baccalaureate**
7 **degree granting institution of higher education selected by the commission under section 1**
8 **of this 2017 Act**, the student is entitled to apply for renewal of the scholarship until the student
9 has received the equivalent of four years of undergraduate education.

10 (5) The Executive Director of the Office of Student Access and Completion may require proof
11 that a student is a current foster child or former foster child.

12 **SECTION 6.** ORS 348.282 is amended to read:

13 348.282. As used in this section and ORS 348.283:

14 (1) "Armed Forces of the United States" means:

15 (a) The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard of the United States;

16 (b) The reserves of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard of the United
17 States; and

18 (c) The Oregon National Guard and a National Guard of any other state or territory.

19 (2) "Public post-secondary institution" means:

20 (a) A public university listed in ORS 352.002; [and]

21 (b) A community college operated under ORS chapter 341; **and**

22 (c) **A regionally accredited nonprofit online baccalaureate degree granting institution of**
23 **higher education selected by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission under section**
24 **1 of this 2017 Act.**

25 (3) "Veteran" has the meaning given that term in ORS 408.225.

26 **SECTION 7.** The amendments to ORS 348.180, 348.270, 348.272, 348.282 and 348.283 by
27 sections 2 to 6 of this 2017 Act first apply to grant and scholarship applications submitted,
28 and tuition charged, for the 2018-2019 academic year.

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