

Senate Bill 1043

Sponsored by Senator HANSELL

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**.

Allows person to continue to qualify for Oregon Promise if, after being awarded grant, person enters into service with career and technical student organization approved by Department of Education before attending community college.

Permits Higher Education Coordinating Commission to allow person to qualify for Oregon Promise program if, due to significant hardship, person does not start attending classes at community college until more than six months after person completed previous highest level of education.

Applies to all persons who received grants for community college courses enrolled in during 2016-2017 academic year or later.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to date to enroll in community college to qualify for the Oregon Promise; creating new
3 provisions; amending ORS 341.522; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 341.522, as amended by section 1, chapter 75, Oregon Laws 2016, is amended
6 to read:

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

9 (2) Subject to subsections [*(5) and*] (6) **and** (7) of this section, the office shall provide a waiver
10 of tuition for community college courses to a person who meets the criteria described in subsections
11 (3) [*and (4)*] **to** (5) of this section. The waiver shall be a grant and limited as provided by subsections
12 [*(5) and*] (6) **and** (7) of this section.

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

14 (a) Is enrolled in courses that are:

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

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

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

20 (ii) An associate degree; or

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

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

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

25 (A) Receiving a diploma under ORS 329.451;

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

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

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 (D) Completing grade 12 at a private or parochial school, as described in ORS 339.030 (1)(a);

2 (d) **Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section**, attained the person's highest level
3 of education as described in paragraph (c) of this subsection within six months from the date that
4 the person first enrolls in courses described in paragraph (a) of this subsection for the purpose of
5 receiving a grant under this section;

6 (e) Earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better in high school or otherwise dem-
7 onstrated an equivalent academic ability, as determined by the office according to rules adopted by
8 the commission;

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

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

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

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

16 **(4)(a) If a person otherwise meets the required criteria and has been awarded a grant**
17 **under subsection (3) of this section, but the person enters into service with a career and**
18 **technical student organization relating to agriculture or farming that is approved by the**
19 **Department of Education under ORS 344.077 within six months after the person attained the**
20 **person's highest level of education as described in subsection (3)(c) of this section, the person**
21 **will continue to be eligible to receive the grant if the person first enrolls in courses described**
22 **in subsection (3)(a) of this section within six months of finishing the person's service with**
23 **the career and technical student organization.**

24 **(b) In addition to the situation described in paragraph (a) of this subsection, the com-**
25 **mission may waive the requirement set forth in subsection (3)(d) of this section for a person**
26 **who shows that the person was unable to timely enroll in courses described in subsection**
27 **(3)(a) of this section due to a significant hardship. The commission may adopt rules to im-**
28 **plement this paragraph.**

29 [(4)(a)] **(5)(a)** A person continues to remain eligible to receive a grant under this section if the
30 person, in addition to satisfying the criteria specified in subsection (3) of this section, meets the
31 following criteria:

32 (A) Maintains at least the minimum cumulative grade point average prescribed by the commis-
33 sion based on federal aid grant requirements;

34 (B) Makes satisfactory academic progress toward a curriculum, degree or program, as described
35 in subsection (3)(a)(B) of this section, as prescribed by the commission based on federal aid grant
36 requirements;

37 (C) Enrolls in courses described in subsection (3)(a) of this section for a sufficient number of
38 credit hours to be considered at least a half-time student each term for at least three terms in each
39 consecutive academic year; and

40 (D) Completes a first-year experience, as identified by the community college and reported by
41 the community college to the commission.

42 (b) A person who fails to meet an eligibility requirement described in paragraph (a) of this
43 subsection becomes ineligible to receive a grant under this section for the term after which the
44 person fails to meet the eligibility requirement, unless the eligibility requirement is waived by the
45 office according to rules adopted by the commission.

1 [(5)(a)] **(6)(a)** The total amount of a grant awarded under this section shall be based on each
 2 term that a person is enrolled in courses described in subsection (3)(a) of this section. After the
 3 amount of tuition for the person for the term is reduced by \$50, to be paid by the person, and re-
 4 duced by any amounts received by the person in state and federal aid grants, the person shall be
 5 eligible for a grant under this section in an amount that equals:

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

7 (i) \$1,000; and

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

9 (B) Not more than the lesser of:

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

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

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

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

20 [(6)] **(7)** The total amount in grants awarded under this section by the office may not exceed \$10
 21 million per fiscal year, or any lesser amount available to the office for the purpose of this section.
 22 The commission may adopt by rule the priority by which grants are awarded, which may allow for
 23 preference to be given to persons enrolled in school districts or high schools that meet specified
 24 criteria.

25 [(7)] **(8)** The commission shall adopt any rules necessary for the administration of this section,
 26 including any requirements related to:

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

28 (b) Determining whether a person is eligible for a grant under this section, including whether
 29 the person shall be given priority as allowed under subsection [(6)] **(7)** of this section;

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

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

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

36 [(8)] **(9)** No later than December 31 of each even-numbered year, the commission shall submit
 37 to an interim legislative committee related to education a report that summarizes the commission's
 38 findings on the impact of the program established under this section. The report shall include:

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

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

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

45 (d) The financial impact and the enrollment impact of the program on community colleges and

1 public universities in this state; and

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

3 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 341.522 by section 1 of this 2017 Act first apply to**
4 **any person who was awarded a grant under ORS 341.522 for courses enrolled in for the**
5 **2016-2017 academic year.**

6 **SECTION 3. This 2017 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
7 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2017 Act takes effect**
8 **on its passage.**

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