Senate Bill 437

Sponsored by Senator FERRIOLI (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 program by which moneys are deposited in education savings accounts for use by parents of qualified children to pay for certain educational expenses incurred from participating entities.

Establishes Education Savings Program Fund. Continuously appropriates moneys to State Treasurer for purpose of making deposits related to program.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

- Relating to education savings accounts; creating new provisions; amending ORS 327.008; and declaring an emergency.
- 4 Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:
 - SECTION 1. As used in sections 1 to 9 of this 2017 Act:
 - (1) "Education savings account" means an account established for a qualified child pursuant to section 2 of this 2017 Act.
 - (2) "Eligible post-secondary institution of education" means:
 - (a) A public university listed in ORS 352.002;
 - (b) A community college established under ORS chapter 341; or
- 11 (c) Any other post-secondary institution of education that:
- 12 (A) Was originally established in this state;
 - (B) Is tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and
 - (C) Is accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.
 - (3) "Parent" means the parent, legal guardian or other person who has the legal duty to ensure a child receives an education as provided by ORS 339.020.
 - (4) "Participating entity" means an entity described in section 6 (1) of this 2017 Act that has submitted an application to the State Treasurer as provided by section 6 of this 2017 Act.
 - (5) "Qualified child" means a child who resides in this state.
 - (6) "Statewide average distribution" means an amount determined by the Department of Education each school year that equals the average per student distribution of State School Funds as general purpose grants for all school districts in this state.
 - SECTION 2. (1) A parent of a qualified child may establish an education savings account for the qualified child by entering into a written agreement as provided by this section. A written agreement is valid for one school year and must be renewed for each subsequent school year for which the parent of a qualified child chooses to receive a grant under section 3 of this 2017 Act.
 - (2)(a) A written agreement must be entered into by the parent of a qualified child in the

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manner and on a form prescribed by the State Treasurer. The State Treasurer must ensure that written agreements are available online and may be submitted online.

- (b) A parent must enter into or renew a separate written agreement for each qualified child of the parent. No more than one education savings account may be established for each qualified child.
 - (3) A written agreement entered into by the parent of a qualified child must provide that:
- (a) The qualified child will receive instruction for the school year for which the written agreement applies from:
 - (A) A participating entity in this state;

- (B) A participating entity in this state or outside this state that provides a program of online education to a qualified child; or
- (C) A participating entity in a neighboring state that provides instruction to a qualified child if substantially similar instruction is not available in this state.
- (b) The qualified child will receive a grant, in the form of moneys deposited pursuant to section 3 of this 2017 Act, in the education savings account established for the qualified child pursuant to subsection (4) of this section.
- (c) Moneys in an education savings account established for the qualified child must be expended only as authorized by section 4 of this 2017 Act.
- (d) The State Treasurer may prohibit withdrawals from the education savings account as provided by sections 1 to 9 of this 2017 Act and by rules adopted by the State Treasurer.
- (4)(a) Except as provided by paragraph (b) of this subsection, the State Treasurer must approve the establishment of an education savings account for a qualified child if a written agreement is entered into pursuant to this section. The education savings account must be maintained by the parent with a private financial management firm approved by the State Treasurer pursuant to section 5 of this 2017 Act.
- (b) The State Treasurer may not approve the establishment of an education savings account for a qualified child if the qualified child will:
- (A) Receive instruction outside of this state, unless allowed as provided in subsection (3)(a)(B) or (C) of this section; or
- (B) Remain enrolled full-time in a public school in this state, regardless of whether the qualified child receives instruction from a participating entity.
- (c) Nothing in paragraph (b)(B) of this subsection prevents the State Treasurer from approving an education savings account for a qualified child who receives a portion of instruction from a public school and a portion of instruction from a participating entity, as long as the instruction from the public school is not full-time.
- (5) Failure to enter into a written agreement for any school year does not prohibit a parent from renewing a written agreement for a subsequent school year. If a written agreement is not renewed within three years of the expiration of the last written agreement, the parent must enter into a new written agreement to establish a new savings account for the qualified child.
- (6) A written agreement entered into pursuant to this section may be terminated by the parent or the State Treasurer prior to the end of a school year pursuant to rules adopted by the State Treasurer.
 - (7) When a qualified child no longer resides in this state:
 - (a) A written agreement terminates automatically and any moneys remaining in the ed-

ucation savings account of the child revert to the General Fund; and

- (b) The child must reestablish residency in this state before the parent may enter into a new written agreement under this section to establish a new education savings account for the child.
- (8) Upon entering into or renewing a written agreement pursuant to this section, the State Treasurer shall provide to the parent who entered into or renewed the written agreement:
- (a) A written explanation of the authorized uses, pursuant to section 4 of this 2017 Act, of the moneys in the education savings account; and
- (b) The responsibilities of the parent and the State Treasurer pursuant to the written agreement and sections 1 to 9 of this 2017 Act.
- SECTION 3. (1) If the parent of a qualified child enters into or renews a written agreement pursuant to section 2 of this 2017 Act, a grant of moneys must be transferred from the Education Savings Program Fund established in section 12 of this 2017 Act into the education savings account of the qualified child.
- (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (3) and (4) of this section, the grant required by subsection (1) of this section must, for the school year for which the grant is made, be in an amount equal to one of the following:
- (a) For a qualified child with a disability, as defined in ORS 343.035, 100 percent of the statewide average distribution;
- (b) For a qualified child with a household income that is less than 185 percent of the federal poverty level, 100 percent of the statewide average distribution; or
- (c) For a qualified child not described in paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection, 90 percent of the statewide average distribution.
- (3) If a qualified child receives a portion of instruction from a participating entity and a portion of instruction from a public school, the grant required by subsection (1) of this section must be prorated based on rules adopted by the State Treasurer.
- (4) The State Treasurer may deduct no more than three percent from each grant for the administrative costs incurred by the State Treasurer in implementing the provisions of sections 1 to 9 of this 2017 Act.
- (5) The State Treasurer shall deposit the moneys for each grant in quarterly installments pursuant to a schedule determined by the State Treasurer.
- (6)(a) If a written agreement is renewed, any moneys remaining in an education savings account at the end of a school year may be carried forward to the next school year.
 - (b) If a written agreement is not renewed:
- (A) Any moneys remaining in an education savings account at the end of a school year shall be carried forward to subsequent school years, but moneys may not be withdrawn until a written agreement is renewed.
- (B) Any moneys remaining in the education savings account shall revert to the General Fund:
- (i) Upon the qualified child receiving a high school diploma, receiving a General Education Development (GED) certificate or no longer residing in this state; or
 - (ii) Within three years of the expiration of the last written agreement.
- (c) If a written agreement is terminated, any moneys remaining in the education savings account shall revert to the General Fund.

SECTION 4. (1) Moneys deposited in an education savings account pursuant to section 3 of this 2017 Act must be used only for:

- (a) Tuition or fees for courses provided to a qualified child by a participating entity.
- (b) Textbooks required for courses provided to a qualified child by a participating entity.
- (c) Tutoring or other teaching services provided to a qualified child by a participating entity.
- (d) Fees for any nationally normed assessment, advanced placement examination or any similar assessments or examinations required for admission to an eligible post-secondary institution of education.
- (e) Fees for any special education or related services provided to a qualified child with a disability.
 - (f) Fees for the management of the education savings account.
- (g) Transportation required for the qualified child to travel to and from a participating entity, or any combination of participating entities, up to \$750 per school year.
- (2) A participating entity that receives a payment authorized by subsection (1) of this section may not:
- (a) Refund any portion of the payment to the parent who made the payment, unless the refund is for an item that is returned or an item or service that has not been provided; or
- (b) Rebate or otherwise share any portion of the payment with the parent who made the payment.
- (3) A parent who receives a refund pursuant to subsection (2) of this section shall deposit the refund in the education savings account from which the amount refunded was paid.
- (4) Nothing in this section prohibits a parent from making payments for any item or service described in subsection (1) of this section from a source other than the education savings account of a qualified child.
- SECTION 5. (1) The State Treasurer shall qualify one or more private financial management firms to manage education savings accounts for the purposes of sections 1 to 9 of this 2017 Act. A private financial management firm may qualify only if the firm establishes reasonable fees, based on market rates, for the management of the education savings accounts.
- (2) An education savings account must be audited randomly each year by a certified public accountant. The State Treasurer may require additional audits of an education savings account as the State Treasurer determines necessary.
- (3) If the State Treasurer determines that a parent has substantially misused the moneys in an education savings account, the State Treasurer may:
- (a) Prohibit withdrawals from the account or dissolve the account, subject to any rules adopted by the State Treasurer providing for notice of the action and opportunity to respond to the notice; and
- (b) Give notice of the State Treasurer's determination to the Attorney General or the district attorney of the county in which the parent resides.
- SECTION 6. (1) The following persons may submit an application to become a participating entity for the purposes of sections 1 to 9 if the person is:
 - (a) A private school;

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- (b) An eligible post-secondary institution of education;
- (c) A program of online education that is not operated by a public school;
- 45 (d) A tutor or tutoring facility that is accredited by a state, regional or national accred-

1 iting organization;

- (e) A private teacher; or
- (f) A parent who is or will be teaching a qualified child in the child's home.
- (2) The State Treasurer shall approve an application submitted pursuant to subsection (1) of this section or request additional information to demonstrate that the applicant meets the criteria to serve as a participating entity. If the applicant is unable to provide the additional information, the State Treasurer may deny the application.
- (3) If it is reasonably expected that a participating entity will receive, from payments made from education savings accounts, more than \$50,000 during any school year, the participating entity shall annually:
- (a) Post a surety bond in an amount equal to the amount reasonably expected to be paid to the participating entity from education savings accounts during the school year; or
- (b) Provide evidence satisfactory to the State Treasurer that the participating entity otherwise has sufficient assets to pay to the State Treasurer an amount equal to the amount described in paragraph (a) of this subsection.
- (4) Each participating entity that accepts payments made from education savings accounts shall provide a receipt for each payment to the parent who makes the payment.
- (5) The State Treasurer may refuse to allow an entity described in subsection (1) of this section to continue to participate in the program provided in sections 1 to 9 of this 2017 Act if the State Treasurer determines that the entity:
- (a) Has regularly failed to comply with the provisions of sections 1 to 9 of this 2017 Act or any rules adopted by the State Treasurer pursuant to sections 1 to 9 of this 2017 Act; or
- (b) Has failed to provide any educational services required by law to a qualified child receiving instruction from the entity if the entity is accepting payment made from the education savings account of the qualified child.
- (6) If the State Treasurer takes an action described in subsection (5) of this section against a participating entity, the State Treasurer shall provide immediate notice of the action to the parent of each qualified child receiving instruction from the entity.
- <u>SECTION 7.</u> (1) Each participating entity that receives payment for instruction made from an education savings account shall:
- (a) Implement the statewide assessment system described in ORS 329.485 in mathematics and English for each qualified child on whose behalf a grant of moneys has been deposited pursuant to section 3 of this 2017 Act and who is receiving instruction from the participating entity; and
- (b) Provide the results of the assessments described in paragraph (a) of this subsection to the Department of Education.
 - (2) The department shall:
- (a) Aggregate the assessment results provided pursuant to subsection (1) of this section according to the grade level, gender, race and family income level of each qualified child whose assessment results are provided; and
- (b) Subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act or any other law protecting student privacy rights, make available on the website of the department:
 - (A) The aggregated results and any associated learning gains; and
- (B) After three school years for which assessment data has been collected, the graduation rates, as applicable, of qualified children whose assessment results are provided.

- (3) The State Treasurer shall administer an annual survey of parents who enter into or renew written agreements pursuant to section 2 of this 2017 Act. The survey must ask each parent to indicate the number of years the parent has entered into or renewed a written agreement, and to express:
- (a) The relative satisfaction of the parent with the program established pursuant to sections 1 to 9 of this 2017 Act; and
- (b) The opinions of the parent regarding any topics, items or issues that the State Treasurer determines may aid the State Treasurer in evaluating and improving the effectiveness of the program established pursuant to sections 1 to 9 of this 2017 Act.
- <u>SECTION 8.</u> (1) The State Treasurer shall annually make available a list of participating entities.
- (2) Subject to the standards adopted under ORS 326.565 and 326.575, the Department of Education shall require resident school districts to provide to a participating entity any educational records of a qualified child who receives instruction from the participating entity.
- SECTION 9. Except as otherwise provided in sections 1 to 9 of this 2017 Act, nothing in the provisions of sections 1 to 9 of this 2017 Act shall be deemed to limit the independence or autonomy of a participating entity or to make the actions of a participating entity the actions of the state.
 - SECTION 10. (1) Sections 1 to 9 of this 2017 Act become operative January 1, 2018.
- (2) The State Board of Education, Department of Education and State Treasurer may take any action before the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section to ensure that students first be allowed to participate in the program established by sections 1 to 9 of this 2017 Act during the 2018-2019 school year.
- SECTION 11. Section 12 of this 2017 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 327.

 SECTION 12. (1) The Education Savings Program Fund is established within the State School Fund.
- (2) The Education Savings Program Fund shall consist of any moneys transferred as provided by ORS 327.008 and any other state or federal moneys available for the purposes of the program established by sections 1 to 9 of this 2017 Act.
- (3) Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the State Treasurer for the purpose of making deposits under section 3 of this 2017 Act.

SECTION 13. ORS 327.008 is amended to read:

327.008. (1)(a) There is established a State School Fund in the General Fund.

- (b) The Department of Education, on behalf of the State of Oregon, may solicit and accept gifts, grants, donations and other moneys from public and private sources for the State School Fund. Moneys received as provided in this paragraph shall be deposited into the State School Fund.
- (c) The State School Fund shall consist of moneys appropriated by the Legislative Assembly, moneys transferred from the Education Stability Fund and moneys received as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection.
- (d) The State School Fund is continuously appropriated to the Department of Education for the purposes of ORS 327.006 to 327.077, 327.095, 327.099, 327.101, 327.125, 327.137, 327.348, 336.575, 336.580, 336.635, 343.243, 343.533, 343.941 and 343.961 and sections 1 to 3, chapter 735, Oregon Laws 2013, and sections 1 to 9 of this 2017 Act.
- (2) There shall be apportioned from the State School Fund to each school district a State School Fund grant, consisting of the positive amount equal to a general purpose grant and a facility grant

and a transportation grant and a high cost disabilities grant minus local revenue, computed as provided in ORS 327.011 and 327.013.

- (3) For the first school year after a public charter school ceases to operate because of dissolution or closure or because of termination or nonrenewal of a charter, there shall be apportioned from the State School Fund to each school district that had sponsored a public charter school that ceased to operate an amount equal to the school district's general purpose grant per extended ADMw multiplied by five percent of the ADM of the public charter school for the previous school year.
- (4) There shall be apportioned from the State School Fund to each education service district a State School Fund grant as calculated under ORS 327.019.
- (5) All figures used in the determination of the distribution of the State School Fund shall be estimates for the same year as the distribution occurs, unless otherwise specified.
- (6) Numbers of students in average daily membership used in the distribution formula shall be the numbers as of June of the year of distribution.
- (7) A school district may not use the portion of the State School Fund grant that is attributable to the facility grant for capital construction costs.
- (8) The total amount of the State School Fund that is distributed as facility grants may not exceed \$9 million in any biennium. If the total amount to be distributed as facility grants exceeds this limitation, the Department of Education shall prorate the amount of funds available for facility grants among those school districts that qualified for a facility grant. If the total amount to be distributed as facility grants does not exceed this limitation, any remaining amounts shall be expended for expenses incurred by the Office of School Facilities as provided in ORS 326.125 (1).
- (9) Each biennium, the Department of Education may expend from the State School Fund no more than \$6 million for expenses incurred by the Office of School Facilities under ORS 326.125 (2) to (6).
- (10) Each fiscal year, the Department of Education shall transfer to the Pediatric Nursing Facility Account established in ORS 327.022 the amount necessary to pay the costs of educational services provided to students admitted to pediatric nursing facilities as provided in ORS 343.941.
- (11) Each fiscal year, the Department of Education shall transfer the amount of \$35 million from the State School Fund to the High Cost Disabilities Account established in ORS 327.348.
- (12)(a) Each biennium, the Department of Education shall transfer \$33 million from the State School Fund to the Network of Quality Teaching and Learning Fund established under ORS 342.953.
 - (b) For the purpose of making the transfer under this subsection:
- (A) The total amount available for all distributions from the State School Fund shall be reduced by \$5 million;
- (B) The amount distributed to school districts from the State School Fund under this section and ORS 327.013 shall be reduced by \$14 million; and
- (C) The amount distributed to education service districts from the State School Fund under this section and ORS 327.019 shall be reduced by \$14 million.
- (c) For each biennium, the amounts identified in paragraph (b)(B) and (C) of this subsection shall be adjusted by the same percentage by which the amount appropriated to the State School Fund for that biennium is increased or decreased compared with the preceding biennium, as determined by the Department of Education after consultation with the Legislative Fiscal Officer.
- (13) Each biennium, the Department of Education shall transfer \$12.5 million from the State School Fund to the Statewide English Language Learner Program Account established under ORS

1 327.344.

- (14) Each fiscal year, the Department of Education may expend up to \$550,000 from the State School Fund for the contract described in ORS 329.488. The amount distributed to education service districts from the State School Fund under this section and ORS 327.019 shall be reduced by the amount expended by the department under this subsection.
- (15) Each biennium, the Department of Education may expend up to \$350,000 from the State School Fund to provide administration of and support for the development of talented and gifted education under ORS 343.404.
- (16) Each biennium, the Department of Education may expend up to \$150,000 from the State School Fund for the administration of a program to increase the number of speech-language pathologists and speech-language pathology assistants under ORS 348.394 to 348.406.
- (17) Each fiscal year, the Department of Education shall transfer to the Education Savings Program Fund established by section 12 of this 2017 Act the amount necessary to make the deposits required by section 3 of this 2017 Act.
- [(17)] (18) Each fiscal year, the Department of Education shall transfer the amount of \$2.5 million from the State School Fund to the Small School District Supplement Fund established in section 3, chapter 735, Oregon Laws 2013.
- SECTION 14. ORS 327.008, as amended by section 7, chapter 735, Oregon Laws 2013, section 7, chapter 81, Oregon Laws 2014, section 2, chapter 68, Oregon Laws 2015, section 38, chapter 245, Oregon Laws 2015, section 2, chapter 555, Oregon Laws 2015, section 11, chapter 604, Oregon Laws 2015, section 2, chapter 644, Oregon Laws 2015, and section 8, chapter 783, Oregon Laws 2015, is amended to read:
 - 327.008. (1)(a) There is established a State School Fund in the General Fund.
- (b) The Department of Education, on behalf of the State of Oregon, may solicit and accept gifts, grants, donations and other moneys from public and private sources for the State School Fund. Moneys received as provided in this paragraph shall be deposited into the State School Fund.
- (c) The State School Fund shall consist of moneys appropriated by the Legislative Assembly, moneys transferred from the Education Stability Fund and moneys received as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection.
- (d) The State School Fund is continuously appropriated to the Department of Education for the purposes of ORS 327.006 to 327.077, 327.095, 327.099, 327.101, 327.125, 327.137, 327.348, 336.575, 336.580, 336.635, 343.243, 343.533, 343.941 and 343.961 and sections 1 to 9 of this 2017 Act.
- (2) There shall be apportioned from the State School Fund to each school district a State School Fund grant, consisting of the positive amount equal to a general purpose grant and a facility grant and a transportation grant and a high cost disabilities grant minus local revenue, computed as provided in ORS 327.011 and 327.013.
- (3) For the first school year after a public charter school ceases to operate because of dissolution or closure or because of termination or nonrenewal of a charter, there shall be apportioned from the State School Fund to each school district that had sponsored a public charter school that ceased to operate an amount equal to the school district's general purpose grant per extended ADMw multiplied by five percent of the ADM of the public charter school for the previous school year.
- (4) There shall be apportioned from the State School Fund to each education service district a State School Fund grant as calculated under ORS 327.019.
- (5) All figures used in the determination of the distribution of the State School Fund shall be

estimates for the same year as the distribution occurs, unless otherwise specified.

- (6) Numbers of students in average daily membership used in the distribution formula shall be the numbers as of June of the year of distribution.
- (7) A school district may not use the portion of the State School Fund grant that is attributable to the facility grant for capital construction costs.
- (8) The total amount of the State School Fund that is distributed as facility grants may not exceed \$9 million in any biennium. If the total amount to be distributed as facility grants exceeds this limitation, the Department of Education shall prorate the amount of funds available for facility grants among those school districts that qualified for a facility grant. If the total amount to be distributed as facility grants does not exceed this limitation, any remaining amounts shall be expended for expenses incurred by the Office of School Facilities as provided in ORS 326.125 (1).
- (9) Each biennium, the Department of Education may expend from the State School Fund no more than \$6 million for expenses incurred by the Office of School Facilities under ORS 326.125 (2) to (6).
- (10) Each fiscal year, the Department of Education shall transfer to the Pediatric Nursing Facility Account established in ORS 327.022 the amount necessary to pay the costs of educational services provided to students admitted to pediatric nursing facilities as provided in ORS 343.941.
- (11) Each fiscal year, the Department of Education shall transfer the amount of \$35 million from the State School Fund to the High Cost Disabilities Account established in ORS 327.348.
- (12)(a) Each biennium, the Department of Education shall transfer \$33 million from the State School Fund to the Network of Quality Teaching and Learning Fund established under ORS 342.953.
 - (b) For the purpose of making the transfer under this subsection:
- (A) The total amount available for all distributions from the State School Fund shall be reduced by \$5 million;
- (B) The amount distributed to school districts from the State School Fund under this section and ORS 327.013 shall be reduced by \$14 million; and
- (C) The amount distributed to education service districts from the State School Fund under this section and ORS 327.019 shall be reduced by \$14 million.
- (c) For each biennium, the amounts identified in paragraph (b)(B) and (C) of this subsection shall be adjusted by the same percentage by which the amount appropriated to the State School Fund for that biennium is increased or decreased compared with the preceding biennium, as determined by the Department of Education after consultation with the Legislative Fiscal Officer.
- (13) Each biennium, the Department of Education shall transfer \$12.5 million from the State School Fund to the Statewide English Language Learner Program Account established under ORS 327.344.
- (14) Each fiscal year, the Department of Education may expend up to \$550,000 from the State School Fund for the contract described in ORS 329.488. The amount distributed to education service districts from the State School Fund under this section and ORS 327.019 shall be reduced by the amount expended by the department under this subsection.
- (15) Each biennium, the Department of Education may expend up to \$350,000 from the State School Fund to provide administration of and support for the development of talented and gifted education under ORS 343.404.
- (16) Each biennium, the Department of Education may expend up to \$150,000 from the State School Fund for the administration of a program to increase the number of speech-language pathologists and speech-language pathology assistants under ORS 348.394 to 348.406.

	(17) Each fiscal year, the Department of Education shall transfer to the Education
\mathbf{S}	avings Program Fund established by section 12 of this 2017 Act the amount necessary to
n	nake the deposits required by section 3 of this 2017 Act.
	SECTION 15. (1) The amendments to ORS 327.008 by sections 13 and 14 of this 2017 Ac
b	ecome operative July 1, 2018.
	(2) The amendments to ORS 327.008 by sections 13 and 14 of this 2017 Act apply to State

<u>SECTION 16.</u> This 2017 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2017 Act takes effect on its passage.

School Fund distributions commencing with the 2018-2019 school year distributions.

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