

# Senate Bill 576

Sponsored by Senator KNOPP (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**.

Requires that at least 25 percent of Oregon Opportunity Grant moneys be awarded to students committed to majoring in science, technology, engineering or mathematics fields.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to dedicating percentage of Oregon Opportunity Grants to students committed to majoring  
3 in STEM fields; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 348.205.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 348.205 is amended to read:

6 348.205. (1) The Oregon Opportunity Grant program is established within the Higher Education  
7 Coordinating Commission.

8 (2) Under the program, the cost of education of a qualified student shall be shared by the stu-  
9 dent, the family of the student, the federal government and the state.

10 (3) The Executive Director of the Office of Student Access and Completion shall determine the  
11 cost of education of a qualified student based on the type of eligible post-secondary institution the  
12 student is attending. The cost of education equals:

13 (a) For a student attending a community college, the average cost of education of attending a  
14 community college in this state;

15 (b) For a student attending a public university listed in ORS 352.002, the average cost of edu-  
16 cation of attending a public university;

17 (c) For a student attending a two-year Oregon-based, generally accredited, not-for-profit institu-  
18 tion of higher education, the average cost of education of attending a community college in this  
19 state; and

20 (d) For a student attending [*the*] Oregon Health and Science University or a four-year Oregon-  
21 based, generally accredited, not-for-profit institution of higher education, the average cost of edu-  
22 cation of attending a public university listed in ORS 352.002.

23 (4)(a) The executive director shall determine the amount of the student share. The student share  
24 shall be based on:

25 (A) The type of eligible post-secondary institution the student is attending;

26 (B) The number of hours of work that the executive director determines may be reasonably ex-  
27 pected from the student; and

28 (C) The amount of loans that the executive director determines would constitute a manageable  
29 debt burden for the student.

30 (b) The student shall determine how to cover the student share through income from work,  
31 loans, savings and scholarships.

**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 (c) The student share for a student who attends a community college may not exceed the amount  
2 that the executive director determines a student may earn based on the number of hours of work  
3 reasonably expected from the student under paragraph (a) of this subsection.

4 (d) The student share for a student who attends an eligible post-secondary institution that is not  
5 a community college may not exceed the sum of the amount that the executive director determines  
6 a student may receive as loans plus the amount a student may earn based on the number of hours  
7 of work reasonably expected from the student under paragraph (a) of this subsection.

8 (5) The executive director shall determine the amount of the family share. The family share shall  
9 be based on the resources of the family.

10 (6) The executive director shall determine the amount of the federal share based on how much  
11 the student or the student's family is expected to receive from the federal government as grants,  
12 loans, tax credits or other student assistance.

13 (7)(a) The executive director shall determine the amount of the state share. The state share shall  
14 be equal to the cost of education reduced by the student share, family share and amount received  
15 by the student from the federal government.

16 (b) The executive director shall establish a minimum amount that a student may receive as a  
17 state share. If the executive director determines that the amount of the state share of a student is  
18 below the minimum amount, the student may not receive the state share.

19 (c) The executive director may not reduce the amount of the state share of a student based on  
20 amounts available to the student by virtue of being the designated beneficiary of a college savings  
21 network account established under ORS 178.300 to 178.355.

22 (8) Subject to subsection (9) of this section, if the executive director determines that there are  
23 insufficient moneys to award the state share to all qualified students, the executive director:

24 (a) May establish the maximum amount that a student may receive as a state share. This amount  
25 may vary based on whether the student is attending an eligible post-secondary institution on a  
26 half-time or full-time basis.

27 (b) May establish procedures that prioritize awarding Oregon Opportunity Grants to qualified  
28 students with the greatest financial need or whose circumstances would enhance the promotion of  
29 equity guidelines published by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

30 (c) May not reduce the amount of the state share awarded to students in the low income range  
31 in a greater proportion than the amount that the state share for students in other income ranges  
32 is reduced.

33 (9)(a) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall adopt rules [*that prioritize current*  
34 *foster children and former foster children for receiving*] **for distributing** Oregon Opportunity Grants  
35 when the Oregon Opportunity Grant program does not have sufficient funding to serve all eligible  
36 Oregon students. **These rules shall ensure that:**

37 **(A) At least 25 percent of all Oregon Opportunity Grant moneys are awarded to students**  
38 **who commit to major in science, technology, engineering or mathematics fields; and**

39 **(B) Current foster children and former foster children are prioritized for receiving**  
40 **Oregon Opportunity Grants.**

41 (b) [*For the purposes of*] **As used in** this subsection, "former foster child" has the meaning given  
42 that term in ORS 350.300.

43 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 348.205 by section 1 of this 2017 Act first apply to**  
44 **Oregon Opportunity Grants awarded on or after the effective date of this 2017 Act.**