

# Senate Bill 911

Sponsored by Senators FERRIOLI, ROBLAN; Senator KRUSE

## 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 Indian Health Scholarship Program to provide free tuition and fees for qualifying Indian health profession students in exchange for student commitment to work at tribal service site after graduation.

Appropriates moneys for 2017-2019 biennium to Higher Education Coordinating Commission for purpose of administering Indian Health Scholarship Program.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2017.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to tribal health; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**

5 (a) **"Health care practitioner" means a:**

6 (A) **Physician licensed under ORS chapter 677;**

7 (B) **Dentist licensed under ORS chapter 679;**

8 (C) **Nurse practitioner licensed under ORS 678.375 to 678.390;**

9 (D) **Physician assistant licensed under ORS 677.505 to 677.525; or**

10 (E) **Certified registered nurse anesthetist licensed under ORS chapter 678.**

11 (b) **"Prospective health care practitioner" means a person who has been accepted into,**  
12 **but has not yet started, a qualifying health profession degree program.**

13 (c) **"Qualifying health profession degree program" means a degree program that meets**  
14 **the educational requirements for licensure as a physician, dentist, nurse practitioner, phy-**  
15 **sician assistant or certified nurse anesthetist.**

16 (d) **"Recipient" means a person who has been selected by the Higher Education Coordi-**  
17 **nating Commission to receive an Indian Health Scholarship under subsection (4) of this sec-**  
18 **tion.**

19 (e) **"Service agreement" means the agreement executed by a prospective health care**  
20 **practitioner under subsection (3) of this section.**

21 (f) **"Tribal service site" means a health care facility located in Oregon that serves a pa-**  
22 **tient population that the commission determines by rule to be at least 50 percent members**  
23 **of a federally recognized Indian tribe.**

24 (2) **There is created the Indian Health Scholarship Program, to be administered by the**  
25 **commission pursuant to rules adopted by the commission. The commission shall determine**  
26 **who shall receive scholarships under subsection (4) of this section.**

27 (3) **A prospective health care practitioner who wishes to participate in the program shall**  
28 **submit an application to the commission in accordance with rules adopted by the commis-**  
29 **sion. To be eligible to receive an Indian Health Scholarship, a prospective health care prac-**

**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 **itioner must:**

2 (a) Be a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe; and

3 (b) Execute a service agreement stating that:

4 (A) Immediately upon the recipient’s completion of the health profession degree, resi-  
5 dency or training, as established for each degree by the commission by rule, the recipient  
6 will practice as a health care practitioner at a tribal service site for a minimum of two years;  
7 and

8 (B) While practicing as a health care practitioner at a tribal service site, the recipient  
9 must meet other requirements established by the commission by rule.

10 (4) The commission shall provide a scholarship covering the entire cost of tuition and  
11 fees for a recipient’s education in a qualifying health profession degree program.

12 (5)(a) A recipient who fails to complete the health profession degree for which the  
13 scholarship was awarded shall repay the amount received to the commission.

14 (b) A recipient who fails to complete the terms of the service agreement shall repay the  
15 amount received plus an additional penalty of 10 percent of the amount received to the  
16 commission. The total amount to be paid under this paragraph shall be reduced on a pro rata  
17 basis for every full month that the recipient complied with the service agreement.

18 (c) Upon the death of a recipient, any obligation of the recipient under this subsection  
19 to repay the commission shall be canceled.

20 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in any case of extreme hardship or for  
21 other good cause shown, the commission may waive, in whole or in part, the right of the  
22 commission to recover moneys made available under this section.

23 (6) In the event that a recipient is required to repay the commission under subsection  
24 (5) of this section, the commission may:

25 (a) Collect any amounts due;

26 (b) Have any amounts due be collected by the Collections Unit in the Department of Re-  
27 venue under ORS 293.250; or

28 (c) Contract with a collections agency to collect any amounts due.

29 (7) Any moneys received or collected by the commission under subsections (5) and (6) of  
30 this section shall be deposited into a separate fund held by the commission for the purpose  
31 of carrying out the provisions of this section. The commission may not use the moneys in  
32 that fund for any other purpose.

33 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2017 Act first applies to the 2018-2019 academic year.

34 **SECTION 3.** There is appropriated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for  
35 the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the  
36 purpose of administering the Indian Health Scholarship Program created in section 1 of this  
37 2017 Act.

38 **SECTION 4.** This 2017 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
39 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2017 Act takes effect  
40 on July 1, 2017.

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