

House Bill 3070

Sponsored by Representative RAYFIELD

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**.

Extends maximum period Oregon Opportunity Grant may be renewed from equivalent of four full-time undergraduate years to equivalent of six full-time undergraduate years.

Authorizes Higher Education Coordinating Commission to award additional moneys to Oregon Opportunity Grant recipients who can demonstrate that they experienced new economic hardship after grant was awarded.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to higher education financial aid; amending ORS 348.260 and 348.263.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 348.260 is amended to read:

5 348.260. (1) In addition to any other form of student financial aid authorized by law, the Higher
6 Education Coordinating Commission may award Oregon Opportunity Grants to qualified students.

7 (2) The amount of a grant shall equal the state share of a qualified student's cost of education
8 as determined by the Director of the Office of Student Access and Completion and comply with ap-
9 plicable rules and procedures described in ORS 348.205.

10 (3) Grant funds necessary to meet matching requirements for federal funds may also be used to
11 award grants to qualified students in any eligible post-secondary institution approved by the com-
12 mission.

13 (4) Grants may be awarded under this section to qualified students enrolled for any term, in-
14 cluding summer term. The commission may prescribe the method and date or dates by which a stu-
15 dent must apply to the commission to qualify for a grant.

16 (5)(a) A qualified student who receives a grant under this section may apply for renewal of the
17 grant on an annual basis. The commission may not renew the grant if the qualified student has not
18 made a timely application for renewal of the grant.

19 (b) The commission shall by rule establish academic standards and benchmarks that a qualified
20 student must meet to have the student's grant renewed.

21 (c) If a qualified student who receives a grant under this section makes a timely application for
22 renewal of the grant, meets the academic standards and benchmarks established by the commission
23 under this subsection and continues to meet all other grant eligibility criteria, the grant shall be
24 renewed for a second year of attendance at an eligible post-secondary institution.

25 (d) Upon timely application by a qualified student who meets the academic standards and
26 benchmarks established by the commission under this subsection and who continues to meet all
27 other grant eligibility criteria, the commission may continue to renew the grant until the qualified
28 student has received the equivalent of [*four*] **six** full-time undergraduate years of grant funding for
29 an eligible program as defined by the commission.

30 (6)(a) The Director of the Office of Student Access and Completion shall inform eligible post-

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 secondary institutions of the identity of qualified students who attend the institution and who re-
2 ceive a grant under this section for more than one academic year.

3 (b) To the extent possible, eligible post-secondary institutions shall ensure that qualified stu-
4 dents identified under this subsection are made aware of the academic guidance and counseling
5 services available at the institution.

6 (7) A qualified student who receives a grant under this section must attend the eligible post-
7 secondary institution upon which the grant application is based unless the Director of the Office
8 of Student Access and Completion authorizes the grant to be used at a different eligible post-
9 secondary institution. A qualified student who receives a grant under this section may attend more
10 than one eligible post-secondary institution if the grant application was based on the qualified stu-
11 dent attending more than one eligible post-secondary institution.

12 (8) The commission may not make a grant award to any qualified student enrolled in a course
13 of study required for and leading to a degree in theology, divinity or religious education.

14 (9)(a) The commission shall report annually on or before February 1 to committees of the Leg-
15 islative Assembly related to higher education regarding the academic success and performance of
16 qualified students who receive grants under this section.

17 (b) In order to meet the reporting requirements set forth in paragraph (a) of this subsection:

18 (A) The commission shall by rule design a method for evaluating the academic success and
19 performance of students who receive a grant under this section; and

20 (B) Upon a request from the commission, eligible post-secondary institutions must provide the
21 commission with the data necessary for the commission to conduct its analysis.

22 **SECTION 2.** ORS 348.263 is amended to read:

23 348.263. (1) In addition to any other form of student financial aid authorized by law, the Higher
24 Education Coordinating Commission may award moneys from the Oregon Opportunity Grant pro-
25 gram to a qualified [*students*] **student:**

26 (a) To reward student persistence and encourage completion of degree programs at eligible
27 post-secondary institutions[.]; **or**

28 (b)(A) **Who has been awarded a grant established under ORS 348.260; and**

29 (B) **Who can demonstrate, in a manner established by the commission by rule, that the**
30 **qualified student has experienced an economic hardship that was not known at the time the**
31 **grant, or the renewal of the grant, was awarded.**

32 (2) Awards made under this section are not subject to the maximum Oregon Opportunity Grant
33 amount established under ORS 348.205.

34 (3) The commission shall establish by rule eligibility criteria for awards made under this section.
35 These criteria shall include, but not be limited to, whether the qualified student is attending an el-
36 igible post-secondary institution on a full-time or half-time basis.

37 (4)(a) The Director of the Office of Student Access and Completion shall administer, and deter-
38 mine the size of, awards made under this section.

39 (b) In determining the size of awards made under **subsection (1)(a) of this section**, the director
40 shall consider basing the size of the awards on a percentage of the maximum Oregon Opportunity
41 Grant amount established under ORS 348.205.

42 (c) **In determining the size of awards made under subsection (1)(b) of this section, the**
43 **director shall consider basing the size of the awards on the amount necessary to allow the**
44 **qualified student to overcome the demonstrated economic hardship and remain enrolled at**
45 **the student's eligible post-secondary institution.**

