Senate Bill 293

Sponsored by Senator HANSELL (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 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 2019-2021 biennium to Oregon Health and Science University for purpose of administering Indian Health Scholarship Program.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to tribal health; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

(a) "Health care practitioner" means a:

(A) Physician licensed under ORS chapter 677;

(B) Dentist licensed under ORS chapter 679;

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

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

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

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

(c) "Qualifying health profession degree program" means a degree program at Oregon Health and Science University that meets the educational requirements for licensure as a physician, dentist, nurse practitioner, physician assistant or certified nurse anesthetist.

(d) "Recipient" means a person who has been selected by Oregon Health and Science University to receive an Indian Health Scholarship under subsection (5) of this section.

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

(f) "Tribal service site" means a health care facility that is located:

(A) On a federally recognized Oregon Indian reservation; or

(B) In Oregon and serves a patient population that is at least 50 percent members of a federally recognized Indian tribe.

(2) There is created the Indian Health Scholarship Program, to be administered by the university pursuant to rules adopted by the university. The university shall determine who shall receive scholarships under subsection (5) of this section.

(3) A prospective health care practitioner who wishes to participate in the program shall submit an application to the university in accordance with rules adopted by the university. To be eligible to receive an Indian Health Scholarship, a prospective health care practitioner

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.

must:

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

(b) Execute a service agreement stating that:

(A) Immediately upon the recipient's completion of the health profession degree, residency or training, as established for each degree by the university by rule, the recipient will practice as a health care practitioner at a tribal service site for at least the number of years that the recipient was enrolled in the health profession degree program for which the recipient received a scholarship; and

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

(4) Oregon Health and Science University may select recipients from among the prospective health care practitioners who submit applications as provided in subsection (3) of this section. The university shall give preference, in the following order of priority, to a prospective health care practitioner who is:

(a) A member of a federally recognized Oregon Indian tribe; or

(b) A resident of this state.

(5) The university shall provide a scholarship covering the entire cost of tuition and fees for a recipient's education in a qualifying health profession degree program.

(6)(a) A recipient who fails to complete the health profession degree for which the scholarship was awarded shall repay the amount received to the university.

(b) A recipient who fails to complete the terms of the service agreement shall repay the amount received to the university. The total amount to be paid under this paragraph shall be reduced on a pro rata basis for every full month that the recipient complied with the service agreement.

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

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

(7) In the event that a recipient is required to repay the university under subsection (6) of this section, the university may:

(a) Collect any amounts due;

(b) Have any amounts due be collected by the Collections Unit in the Department of Revenue under ORS 293.250; or

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

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

SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2019 Act first applies to the 2020-2021 academic year.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated to Oregon Health and Science University, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, out of the General Fund, the amount of $_____ for the purpose of administering the Indian Health Scholarship Program created in section 1 of this 2019 Act.

SECTION 4. This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public

peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect on July 1, 2019.