

A-Engrossed
House Bill 2092

Ordered by the House April 10
Including House Amendments dated April 10

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of Governor Kate Brown for Higher Education Coordinating Commission)

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.

Alters scope of duties and data collection requirements for Oregon Youth Employment Program.
Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission, after allocating portion of program funds to Oregon Youth Corps, to provide grants to local workforce development boards. Directs commission to allocate no less than 20 percent of program funds to organizations that serve communities of color.

Allows program participants to receive award that is equivalent to minimum wage if participant is otherwise prohibited from receiving wages from program provider. Appropriates moneys to commission to administer grants.

Places Oregon Youth Corps and Oregon Community Stewardship Corps within Oregon Youth Employment Program.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to youth programs; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 418.653, 418.658 and
3 660.353.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 660.353 is amended to read:

6 660.353. [(1)] **(1)(a)** There is created in the Higher Education Coordinating Commission the
7 Oregon Youth Employment Program[. *Subject to the availability of funding, the commission shall*
8 *create and operate, and local workforce development boards shall manage, the program to provide*],
9 **which shall operate subject to the availability of funds, including eligible federal funds, for**
10 **the purpose of providing** meaningful work experience and workforce training for persons between
11 the ages of 14 and 24.

12 **(b) The commission shall, pursuant to criteria established by the commission, and after**
13 **allocating a portion of program funds to the Oregon Youth Corps described in ORS 418.653,**
14 **provide grants to local workforce development boards. The commission shall award grants**
15 **in a manner that ensures no less than 20 percent of program funds are available to organ-**
16 **izations with direct experience serving communities of color.**

17 (2) The program shall [*provide to participants in the program case management and support ser-*
18 *vices that include, but are not limited to*]:

19 (a) [*Developing*] **Ensure that at least 75 percent of program participants are from com-**
20 **munities of color, rural communities, communities that have faced generational poverty or**
21 **other communities that have been historically underrepresented in youth employment as**
22 **identified by the commission by rule;**

23 **(b) Create** an individual development plan for [*the*] **each program** participant that outlines

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 work readiness, career and educational goals;

2 [(b)] (c) **Provide** work readiness instruction;

3 [(c)] (d) **Provide** at least [12] **five** weeks of paid internships, **pre-apprenticeships** or other work
4 experience; [and]

5 [(d)] (e) **Pay at least minimum wage for work performed by program participants while**
6 **in the program, or, if a program participant is prohibited by other state or federal law or**
7 **agreement from receiving wages from the program provider, provide an award valued at an**
8 **amount equal to at least the payment of minimum wage;**

9 (f) **Provide** academic support for earning high school graduation credit, completion of approved
10 high school equivalency programs such as the General Educational Development (GED) certificate
11 program or earning college credit for work experience or internships provided through the
12 program[.];

13 (g) **Expose program participants to in-demand occupations and targeted sectors;**

14 (h) **Require program providers to submit a community engagement plan that details how**
15 **the program providers will partner with and serve communities identified in paragraph (a)**
16 **of this subsection; and**

17 (i) **Require program providers to offer English language learner and accessibility services**
18 **that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).**

19 (3) The program[.]

20 [(a) *Plan, implementation procedures and evaluation criteria shall be described in the local plan*
21 *developed by a local workforce development board under ORS 660.327.*]

22 [(b)] may provide for public and private sector employment opportunities.

23 [(4) *Local workforce development boards responsible for managing the program shall ensure ap-*
24 *propriate training and positive work experiences for participants.*]

25 [(5)] (4)(a) The commission shall [*collaborate with the local workforce development boards to*]
26 collect data on **the program**, [*youth work experience programs that*] identify successful work expe-
27 riences and allow for the identification and dissemination of the most promising practices.

28 (b) The data collected shall [*also*] **be disaggregated by:**

29 (A) **The race and ethnicity of program participants;**

30 (B) **Whether program participants come from urban or rural areas;**

31 (C) **The family income of program participants; and**

32 (D) **Any other characteristic of program participants that the commission determines by**
33 **rule would be useful in evaluating the success of the program.**

34 (c) **The data collected shall include:**

35 (A) The number of participants in the program[.];

36 (B) The number of participants that complete the program[.];

37 (C) The cost of internships and other work experiences provided[.];

38 (D) The academic credit earned by participants; and

39 (E) The number of certificates for passing approved high school equivalency tests such as the
40 General Educational Development (GED) test earned by participants.

41 (5) **The commission shall conduct culturally responsive outreach and engagement and**
42 **offer technical assistance to prospective program providers.**

43 (6) **In a manner determined by the commission by rule, the commission shall assist**
44 **identified program providers in recruiting program participants across diverse communities**
45 **by providing:**

1 (a) Translation and accessibility services for marketing materials; and

2 (b) Training to program providers in culturally responsive, social emotional health and
3 mental health practices.

4 [(6)] (7) The commission shall adopt rules necessary for the implementation and operation of the
5 program created under subsection (1) of this section. The rules shall include, but are not limited to,
6 establishing eligibility criteria for persons participating in the program.

7 **SECTION 2.** ORS 418.653 is amended to read:

8 418.653. (1) Subject to the availability of funds, there is created **within the Oregon Youth**
9 **Employment Program established under ORS 660.353** an Oregon Youth Corps that shall provide
10 emergency services, public conservation, rehabilitation and improvement programs. The corps shall
11 be headed by a program director, and shall be administered through the Higher Education Coordinating
12 Commission.

13 (2) Upon implementation of subsection (1) of this section, there shall be created an Oregon
14 Youth Corps Advisory Board to consist of nine members, three to be appointed by the President of
15 the Senate, three to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and three public
16 members to be appointed by the Governor. No more than one Senator and one Representative shall
17 be appointed.

18 (3) Board members may receive reimbursement of necessary and actual expenses under ORS
19 292.495 (2), but may not receive compensation under ORS 292.495 (1) or otherwise for participation
20 as a board member.

21 (4) Board members may be removed by the appointing authority. Vacancies shall be filled by
22 the appointing authority. Board members shall serve for a term of three years and may be reapp-
23 pointed for an additional consecutive term.

24 (5) The advisory board established under subsection (2) of this section shall advise the program
25 director on the implementation of ORS 418.650 to 418.663.

26 **SECTION 3.** ORS 418.658 is amended to read:

27 418.658. (1) The program director of the Oregon Youth Corps shall establish **within the Oregon**
28 **Youth Employment Program established under ORS 660.353** a separate program known as the
29 Oregon Community Stewardship Corps. In addition to the established purposes of the Oregon Youth
30 Corps, the purpose of the Oregon Community Stewardship Corps is to promote community service
31 activities throughout the state for a broad cross section of Oregon disadvantaged and at-risk youth
32 through programs that also include appropriate educational and job training opportunities for par-
33 ticipants.

34 (2) In addition to projects submitted under ORS 418.660 (1), projects of the Oregon Community
35 Stewardship Corps may include, but shall not be limited to:

36 (a) Child care services.

37 (b) Elderly and disabled care services.

38 (c) Literacy education programs.

39 (d) Recycling and other waste reduction services.

40 (3) The Oregon Community Stewardship Corps shall offer employment and educational opportu-
41 nities of at least three but not more than 12 months' duration for selected participants.

42 (4) Under rules adopted by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, participants who
43 successfully complete any program under this section shall be eligible for up to \$1,500 in support
44 vouchers that can be used to pay for tuition, books or other items or services that enhance and
45 support education or employment.

1 (5) All Oregonians who are at least 13 years of age and under 25 years of age are eligible to
2 participate in the program. To ensure that Oregon Community Stewardship Corps participants rep-
3 resent a broad cross section of Oregonians, special emphasis shall be given to recruiting school
4 dropouts and other disadvantaged and at-risk youth, according to criteria established by the Oregon
5 Youth Corps Advisory Board.

6 (6) To the extent practicable, the program director shall enlist state and federal agencies, local
7 government, nonprofit organizations and private businesses, and any combination of such entities,
8 to act as sponsors for programs administered under this section. Selection of sponsors shall be based
9 on criteria that include the following:

10 (a) The availability of other resources on a matching basis, including contributions from private
11 sources, other federal, state and local agencies, and moneys available through the federal Workforce
12 Innovation and Opportunity Act;

13 (b) The provision of related educational and job training programs to participants, including but
14 not limited to school and college coursework, training for approved high school equivalency tests
15 such as the General Educational Development (GED), project-related education and professional
16 training;

17 (c) Assurances that proposed projects will not displace existing employees or duplicate existing
18 private or government programs; and

19 (d) Assurances that proposed projects are devoted to the enhancement of the community and are
20 not based in maintenance activities and that these projects meet an identified need.

21 (7) In consultation with the advisory board, the program director shall make grants for programs
22 administered under this section.

23 **SECTION 4. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**
24 **ated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for the biennium beginning July 1,**
25 **2021, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$11,768,289, for administering and funding**
26 **grants under section 1 of this 2021 Act.**

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