A-Bill For An Act

Relating To Student Behavioral Health; And Declaring An Emergency.

Be It Enacted By The People Of The State Of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) Southern Oregon University shall develop and administer a student behavioral health credentialing pilot program. To the extent practicable, the university shall enable at least 100 individuals to receive credentialing under the pilot program by June 30, 2023.

(2) Training for the student behavioral health credentialing pilot program shall:

(a) Advance the behavioral health skill level of school district staff and of individuals interested in entering the workforce for student behavioral health;

(b) Align with standards for the student health credentialing pilot program to ensure predictability is provided for mental health care providers, school districts and other employers of individuals who receive training; and

(c) Be coordinated and provided by:

(A) Southern Oregon University;

(B) The education service district that serves Jackson, Josephine and Klamath Counties; and

(C) Mental health care providers in Jackson, Josephine and Klamath Counties.

(3)(a) The university shall establish standards by which financial assistance is made available under the pilot program for the following:

(A) Tuition costs and other costs incurred in relation to training and credentialing;

(B) Staffing costs incurred by employers while individuals attend training; and

(C) Costs incurred by providers of training.

(b) When providing financial assistance under this subsection, priority shall be given to

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.
enable the following to receive training and credentialing:

(A) Early childhood educators;

(B) Classroom assistants and other school district staff from kindergarten through grade

12; and

(C) Behavioral health workers interested in assisting students.

(4) The university shall report on the pilot program to the interim committees of the
Legislative Assembly related to education no later than September 1, 2023. The report may
include recommendations for legislation and for methods of providing student behavioral
health credentialing and training throughout this state.

SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2021 Act is repealed on December 31, 2023.

SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
ated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for distribution to Southern Oregon
University, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, out of the General Fund, the amount of
$100,000, which shall be expended for the pilot program described in section 1 of this 2021
Act.

SECTION 4. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect
July 1, 2021.