AN ACT

Relating to educational grants for members of the Oregon National Guard; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 348.268.

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

SECTION 1. ORS 348.268 is amended to read:
348.268. (1) As used in this section:
(a) “Community college” means a community college operated under ORS chapter 341.
(b) “Good standing” means the qualified student has a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher at Oregon Health and Science University or the community college, public university listed in ORS 352.002 or qualifying private institution at which the student is enrolled.
(c) “Qualified student” means a student who:
(A) Has not achieved a baccalaureate or higher degree from any post-secondary institution;
(B) Is enrolled and in good standing in:
(i) An associate degree granting program at a community college;
(ii) An undergraduate baccalaureate degree granting program at a public university listed in ORS 352.002;
(iii) An undergraduate baccalaureate degree granting program at a qualifying private institution;
(iv) An undergraduate baccalaureate degree granting program at Oregon Health and Science University; or
(v) A program or curriculum designed to lead to a certificate of completion, as defined by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission by rule, at a community college, a public university listed in ORS 352.002, Oregon Health and Science University or a qualifying private institution;
(C) Is a member of the Oregon National Guard;
(D) Has completed basic training with the Oregon National Guard or a National Guard of any other state or territory;
(E) Has completed and submitted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for each academic year, if eligible to file the application; and
(F) Has accepted all [state and federal aid grants available to the student, including but not limited to federal grants offered by the United States Department of Education and the United States Department of Defense] federal military tuition assistance grants available to the student.
(d) “Qualifying private institution” means a private post-secondary institution that meets the criteria set forth in ORS 348.597 (2).
(2) A qualified student shall receive a grant under this section in an amount that equals, after the amount of resident tuition is reduced by any amounts received by the qualified student in state and federal aid grants, the sum of the following, minus the amount of federal military tuition assistance received by the qualified student:

(a) The resident tuition charges at the community college at which the qualified student is enrolled;

(b) The resident tuition charges at the public university listed in ORS 352.002 at which the qualified student is enrolled;

(c) The average resident tuition charges to attend a public university listed in ORS 352.002 if the qualified student is enrolled at a qualifying private institution; or

(d) The resident tuition charges at Oregon Health and Science University if the qualified student is enrolled at Oregon Health and Science University.

(b) The average amount of fees charged by the type of institution at which the qualified student is enrolled, as determined by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission; and

(c) An allowance for books required for coursework, as determined by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

(3) Grants provided under this section shall be awarded to a qualified student for up to:

(a) 90 credit hours at a community college;

(b) 180 credit hours at a public university listed in ORS 352.002;

(c) 180 credit hours at a qualifying private institution; or

(d) 180 credit hours at Oregon Health and Science University.

(4) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall adopt any rules necessary for the administration of this section, including but not limited to any requirements related to:

(a) Specifying the form and timelines for submitting an application for a grant under this section;

(b) Determining whether a person is eligible for a grant under this section; and

(c) Prescribing grant calculations for qualified students dually enrolled at a community college, a public university, Oregon Health and Science University or a qualifying private institution.

(5) Prior to the start of the fall term of each academic year, the commission shall determine whether moneys available to the commission are sufficient to award a grant under this section to each eligible person. On the basis of this determination, the commission may:

(a) Limit eligibility to receive a grant under this section to a person whose family contribution, as determined by the commission by rule, is at or below a level the commission determines is necessary to allow the commission to operate the grant program under this section with available moneys; or

(b) Reduce or eliminate any limitation on eligibility previously imposed by the commission under paragraph (a) of this subsection.

(6) If at any time the commission determines that moneys available to the commission are insufficient to provide a grant under this section to each eligible person, the commission may decrease the total amount of the grant awarded to each recipient.

SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 348.268 by section 1 of this 2021 Act first apply to tuition assistance provided for the 2021-2022 academic year.
Passed by Senate April 1, 2021

Lori L. Brocker, Secretary of Senate

Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Passed by House June 1, 2021

Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Received by Governor:

M., ........................................................., 2021

Approved:

M., ........................................................., 2021

Kate Brown, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

M., ........................................................., 2021

Shemia Fagan, Secretary of State