

Senate Bill 706

Sponsored by Senator BEYER, Representative MEEK

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**.

Requires Oregon Health Authority to provide grant to organization for purpose of conducting outreach to citizens of island nations in Compact of Free Association residing in Oregon to enroll citizens of island nations in Compact of Free Association in medical assistance.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to enrolling citizens of the island nations in the Compact of Free Association in the state
3 medical assistance program; creating new provisions; repealing ORS 735.601, 735.604, 735.608,
4 735.611 and 735.617; and declaring an emergency.

5 Whereas section 208 of the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260) removed
6 the barriers to enrollment in Medicaid for citizens of the island nations of the Compact of Free
7 Association; now, therefore,

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

9 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2021 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 413.**

10 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section, "COFA citizen" means a citizen of any of the**
11 **island nations in the Compact of Free Association who is residing in Oregon.**

12 **(2) The Oregon Health Authority is responsible for conducting statewide outreach to**
13 **COFA citizens with the goal of enrolling all eligible COFA citizens in medical assistance.**

14 **(3) The authority, in collaboration with the work group described in subsection (5) of this**
15 **section, shall evaluate and implement the outreach and marketing strategies designed to**
16 **most effectively encourage the enrollment of all eligible COFA citizens in medical assistance.**

17 **(4) To maximize the enrollment and retention of eligible COFA citizens in medical as-**
18 **sistance, the authority shall develop and administer a program to provide a \$500,000 grant**
19 **to an organization:**

20 **(a) That represents all communities of COFA citizens in this state and is uniquely qual-**
21 **ified to deliver culturally specific and targeted outreach and direct application assistance to:**

22 **(A) Members of the Marshallese, Chuukese, Pohnpeian, Yapese, Kosraean and Palauan**
23 **communities;**

24 **(B) COFA citizens who reside in different geographic areas of this state; and**

25 **(C) COFA citizens who face significant barriers to completing the application process for**
26 **medical assistance, including transportation barriers, physical, cognitive or mental barriers**
27 **or homelessness.**

28 **(b) That has experience in administering a statewide grant.**

29 **(c) That is able to provide assistance to each community of COFA citizens by speakers**
30 **of the language of the community.**

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 **(d) Whose singular mission is bringing social and economic equality to COFA citizens in**
 2 **this state and nationwide.**

3 **(5) The authority shall convene a work group, consisting of individuals with experience**
 4 **in conducting outreach to the individuals described in subsection (4)(a)(A) of this section, to**
 5 **advise and assist the authority in carrying out the duties of the authority under this section.**

6 **SECTION 3.** Section 2 of this 2021 Act is amended to read:

7 **Sec. 2.** (1) As used in this section, “COFA citizen” means a citizen of any of the island nations
 8 in the Compact of Free Association who is residing in Oregon.

9 (2) The Oregon Health Authority is responsible for conducting statewide outreach to COFA
 10 citizens with the goal of enrolling all eligible COFA citizens in medical assistance.

11 (3) The authority, in collaboration with the work group described in subsection (5) of this sec-
 12 tion, shall evaluate and implement the outreach and marketing strategies designed to most effec-
 13 tively encourage the enrollment of all eligible COFA citizens in medical assistance.

14 (4) To maximize the enrollment and retention of eligible COFA citizens in medical assistance,
 15 the authority shall develop and administer a program to provide a [\$500,000] grant, **each calendar**
 16 **year**, to an organization:

17 (a) That represents all communities of COFA citizens in this state and is uniquely qualified to
 18 deliver culturally specific and targeted outreach and direct application assistance to:

19 (A) Members of the Marshallese, Chuukese, Pohnpeian, Yapese, Kosraean and Palauan commu-
 20 nities;

21 (B) COFA citizens who reside in different geographic areas of this state; and

22 (C) COFA citizens who face significant barriers to completing the application process for med-
 23 ical assistance, including transportation barriers, physical, cognitive or mental barriers or
 24 homelessness.

25 (b) That has experience in administering a statewide grant.

26 (c) That is able to provide assistance to each community of COFA citizens by speakers of the
 27 language of the community.

28 (d) Whose singular mission is bringing social and economic equality to COFA citizens in this
 29 state and nationwide.

30 (5) The authority shall convene a work group, consisting of individuals with experience in con-
 31 ducting outreach to the individuals described in subsection (4)(a)(A) of this section, to advise and
 32 assist the authority in carrying out the duties of the authority under this section.

33 **SECTION 4. Moneys remaining in the COFA Premium Assistance Program Fund on the**
 34 **operative date specified in section 6 of this 2021 Act are transferred to and deposited into the**
 35 **Oregon Health Authority Fund established in ORS 413.101, to be used to enroll individuals**
 36 **described in section 2 of this 2021 Act in the state medical assistance program.**

37 **SECTION 5. ORS 735.601, 735.604, 735.608, 735.611 and 735.617 are repealed.**

38 **SECTION 6. The amendments to section 2 of this 2021 Act by section 3 of this 2021 Act**
 39 **and the repeal of ORS 735.601, 735.604, 735.608, 735.611 and 735.617 by section 5 of this 2021**
 40 **Act become operative on June 30, 2022.**

41 **SECTION 7. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
 42 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect**
 43 **on its passage.**