

# A-Engrossed House Bill 4011

Ordered by the House February 14  
Including House Amendments dated February 14

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Human Services for Representative Anna Williams)

## 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.

Creates qualified mental health associate incentive program within Oregon Health Authority. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to authority for purpose of providing loan repayment subsidies through program to qualified mental health associates serving children in child-caring agencies.

*[Directs Department of Human Services to develop and administer qualified mental health associate apprenticeship program. Prescribes certain educational and training requirements for persons to serve as qualified mental health associates assisting child-caring agencies. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to department, Bureau of Labor and Industries and Oregon Health Authority for apprenticeship program.]*

Establishes Child Welfare Cultural Equity Program within Department of Human Services to connect children served by department with child welfare service providers who meet children's cultural diversity needs. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to department for program.

*[Directs Department of Human Services to conduct comprehensive review of child welfare service provider rate structures and submit report to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to human services.]*

*[Directs Oregon Health Authority to conduct biennial nursing market study. Directs authority to consider results of most recent study when making annual adjustments to Medicaid reimbursement rates for providers of children's intensive in-home services.]*

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to child welfare; creating new provisions; amending ORS 676.450; and prescribing an effective date.  
3

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

## 5 6 QUALIFIED MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATES

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8 **SECTION 1. (1) There is created in the Oregon Health Authority a qualified mental health**  
9 **associate incentive program for the purpose of providing loan repayment subsidies to quali-**  
10 **fied mental health associates who commit to serving children in child-caring agencies in this**  
11 **state. The authority shall prescribe by rule:**

12 (a) **Participant eligibility criteria, including the types of qualified mental health associ-**  
13 **ates who may participate in the program;**

14 (b) **The terms and conditions of participation in the program, including the duration of**  
15 **the term of any service agreement, which must be at least 24 months;**

16 (c) **If the funds allocated to the program from the Health Care Provider Incentive Fund**  
17 **established under ORS 676.450 are insufficient to provide assistance to all applicants who are**

**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 eligible to participate in the program, the priority for the distribution of funds; and

2 (d) The financial penalties imposed on an individual who fails to comply with the terms  
3 and conditions of participation.

4 (2) Eligibility criteria adopted for the program:

5 (a) Must allow qualified mental health associates to qualify for an incentive for multiyear  
6 periods.

7 (b) Must give preference to applicants:

8 (A) Who have been recruited through the Child Welfare Cultural Equity Program estab-  
9 lished under section 3 of this 2022 Act;

10 (B) Who commit to serving for a minimum of two years with a child-caring agency that  
11 provides care to children receiving child welfare services from the Department of Human  
12 Services, children receiving services from the Oregon Youth Authority or children who have  
13 been referred by state or local agencies or coordinated care organizations; or

14 (C) Who meet specific needs identified by a child-caring agency.

15 (3) The Oregon Health Authority may enter into contracts with one or more public or  
16 private entities to administer the qualified mental health associate incentive program or  
17 parts of the program.

18 (4) The authority may receive gifts, grants or contributions from any source, whether  
19 public or private, to carry out the provisions of this section. Moneys received under this  
20 subsection shall be deposited in the Health Care Provider Incentive Fund established under  
21 ORS 676.450.

22 (5) As used in this section, “child-caring agency” has the meaning given that term in ORS  
23 418.205.

24 **SECTION 2.** ORS 676.450 is amended to read:

25 676.450. The Health Care Provider Incentive Fund is established in the State Treasury, separate  
26 and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Health Care Provider Incentive Fund  
27 shall be credited to the fund. The fund consists of moneys appropriated to the fund by the Legisla-  
28 tive Assembly and gifts, grants or other moneys contributed to the fund by any source, whether  
29 public or private. Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Health Authority  
30 to carry out ORS 676.454 and 676.467 and section 1 of this 2022 Act.

31  
32 **WORKFORCE DIVERSITY**

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34 **SECTION 3.** (1) The Child Welfare Cultural Equity Program is established within the  
35 Department of Human Services. The purpose of the program is to ensure access to a diverse  
36 set of child welfare service providers consistent with the cultural diversity needs of the  
37 population being served.

38 (2) Under the program, the department may develop, or contract with nonprofit organ-  
39 izations to assist in the development of:

40 (a) Methods for determining the cultural diversity needs of the children receiving child  
41 welfare services from the department;

42 (b) Methods for incentivizing the recruitment and retention of a diverse set of child  
43 welfare service providers; and

44 (c) Best practices for connecting a child served by the department with child welfare  
45 service providers who meet the child’s cultural diversity needs.

