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.
eligible to participate in the program, the priority for the distribution of funds; and
   (d) The financial penalties imposed on an individual who fails to comply with the terms
and conditions of participation.

(2) Eligibility criteria adopted for the program:
   (a) Must allow qualified mental health associates to qualify for an incentive for multiyear
periods.
   (b) Must give preference to applicants:
      (A) Who have been recruited through the Child Welfare Cultural Equity Program estab-
lished under section 3 of this 2022 Act;
      (B) Who commit to serving for a minimum of two years with a child-caring agency that
provides care to children receiving child welfare services from the Department of Human
Services, children receiving services from the Oregon Youth Authority or children who have
been referred by state or local agencies or coordinated care organizations; or
      (C) Who meet specific needs identified by a child-caring agency.

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

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

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

SECTION 2. ORS 676.450 is amended to read:

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

WORKFORCE DIVERSITY

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

(2) Under the program, the department may develop, or contract with nonprofit organ-
izations to assist in the development of:
   (a) Methods for determining the cultural diversity needs of the children receiving child
welfare services from the department;
   (b) Methods for incentivizing the recruitment and retention of a diverse set of child
welfare service providers; and
   (c) Best practices for connecting a child served by the department with child welfare
service providers who meet the child's cultural diversity needs.
(3) The department may adopt rules to implement and carry out the provisions of this section.

APPROPRIATIONS

SECTION 4. (1) In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium ending June 30, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of $250,000, for deposit in the Health Care Provider Incentive Fund established in ORS 676.450, and which may be expended for the purpose of providing loan repayment subsidies to qualified mental health associates participating in the qualified mental health associate incentive program under section 1 of this 2022 Act.

(2) In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Department of Human Services, for the biennium ending June 30, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of $250,000 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of section 3 of this 2022 Act.

CAPTIONS

SECTION 5. The unit captions used in this 2022 Act are provided only for the convenience of the reader and do not become part of the statutory law of this state or express any legislative intent in the enactment of this 2022 Act.

EFFECTIVE DATE

SECTION 6. This 2022 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2022 regular session of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.