

LC 458  
2023 Regular Session  
52500-009  
7/29/22 (JAS/ps)

# D R A F T

## SUMMARY

Creates Oregon Youth Works Advisory Board to advise on and oversee implementation and alignment of youth workforce development programs for which Higher Education Coordinating Commission is responsible.

Abolishes Oregon Youth Corps Advisory Board and Oregon Conservation Corps Advisory Committee to align governance of youth workforce development programs under single entity.

Requires Oregon Youth Corps to operate in consultation with Oregon Youth Works Advisory Board.

Makes conforming amendments.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to youth workforce development programs; creating new provisions;  
3 amending ORS 418.653, 418.657, 418.658, 418.660, 476.696 and 476.698; and  
4 prescribing an effective date.

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

6 **SECTION 1. (1) There is created in the Higher Education Coordinating Commission the Oregon Youth Works Advisory Board. The**  
7 **purpose of the advisory board is to provide advice on and oversight of**  
8 **the implementation and alignment of youth workforce development**  
9 **programs for which the commission is responsible, including but not**  
10 **limited to:**

11  
12 **(a) The Oregon Youth Corps created under ORS 418.653;**

13 **(b) The Oregon Conservation Corps Program established under ORS**  
14 **476.694; and**

15 **(c) The Oregon Youth Employment Program created under ORS**

**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 **660.353.**

2 (2) **The Governor, in consultation with the commission, shall de-**  
3 **termine the number of members on the advisory board. In determining**  
4 **the number of members on the advisory board, the Governor shall**  
5 **ensure that membership consists of at least seven but not more than**  
6 **12 members.**

7 (3) **The Governor shall appoint the members of the advisory board.**  
8 **The members must be residents of this state who reflect the ge-**  
9 **ographic, racial, ethnic and gender diversity of this state.**

10 (4) **Members of the advisory board serve for a term of four years**  
11 **at the pleasure of the Governor.**

12 (5) **Members may not receive compensation for service on the ad-**  
13 **visory board, but, subject to any applicable laws regulating travel and**  
14 **other expenses of state officers and employees, may be reimbursed for**  
15 **actual and necessary travel and other expenses incurred in the per-**  
16 **formance of official duties, as provided in ORS 292.495, with moneys**  
17 **available to the advisory board for the purpose of reimbursing mem-**  
18 **bers.**

19 (6) **The commission shall provide the advisory board with necessary**  
20 **staff support.**

21 **SECTION 2.** ORS 418.653 is amended to read:

22 418.653. [(1)] Subject to the availability of funds, there is created within  
23 the Oregon Youth Employment Program established under ORS 660.353 an  
24 Oregon Youth Corps that shall provide emergency services, public conserva-  
25 tion, rehabilitation and improvement programs. The corps shall be headed  
26 by a program director, and shall be administered through the Higher Edu-  
27 cation Coordinating Commission. **The program director shall operate the**  
28 **corps in consultation with the Oregon Youth Works Advisory Board**  
29 **created under section 1 of this 2023 Act.**

30 [(2)] *Upon implementation of subsection (1) of this section, there shall be*  
31 *created an Oregon Youth Corps Advisory Board to consist of nine members,*

1 *three to be appointed by the President of the Senate, three to be appointed by*  
2 *the Speaker of the House of Representatives and three public members to be*  
3 *appointed by the Governor. No more than one Senator and one Representative*  
4 *shall be appointed.]*

5 *[(3) Board members may receive reimbursement of necessary and actual*  
6 *expenses under ORS 292.495 (2), but may not receive compensation under ORS*  
7 *292.495 (1) or otherwise for participation as a board member.]*

8 *[(4) Board members may be removed by the appointing authority. Vacancies*  
9 *shall be filled by the appointing authority. Board members shall serve for a*  
10 *term of three years and may be reappointed for an additional consecutive*  
11 *term.]*

12 *[(5) The advisory board established under subsection (2) of this section*  
13 *shall advise the program director on the implementation of ORS 418.650 to*  
14 *418.663.]*

15 **SECTION 3.** ORS 418.657 is amended to read:

16 418.657. (1) In consultation with the Oregon Youth [Corps] **Works** Advi-  
17 sory Board **created under section 1 of this 2023 Act** and the executive di-  
18 rector of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, or the designee  
19 of the executive director, the program director of the Oregon Youth Corps  
20 shall:

21 (a) Establish eligibility criteria for participants. Such criteria shall not  
22 render the program ineligible for federal funds. Participants shall be lawful  
23 permanent residents of this state.

24 (b) Establish criteria in order to make the required determination that  
25 enrollment in the corps was not the reason that an individual ceased at-  
26 tendance at a secondary school.

27 (c) Assume that application of the eligibility and participation criteria  
28 results in enrollment of at least 75 percent disadvantaged and at-risk youth  
29 among the total number of participants.

30 (2) The program director, in consultation with the executive director, or  
31 the designee of the executive director, may take the following actions, in-

1 cluding but not limited to:

2 (a) Applying for and accepting grants or contributions of funds from any  
3 public or private source;

4 (b) Making agreements or entering into contracts or other agreements  
5 with any local, state or federal agency, or with any private or public or-  
6 ganization or tribal government, to utilize, pay for or support any service,  
7 material or property of any such entity, where such agreements are consid-  
8 ered reasonable and necessary; and

9 (c) Purchasing, contracting or making payment for necessary services,  
10 awards, equipment, materials and property where such are needed to carry  
11 out the projects approved for and undertaken by the corps.

12 (3) The commission may adopt all necessary rules to carry out the pur-  
13 poses and objectives of the program and to regulate the standards of conduct  
14 and other operating guidelines for corps members and other personnel.

15 (4) Corps members are exempt from:

16 (a) State Personnel Relations Law; and

17 (b) ORS 279C.800 to 279C.870.

18 **SECTION 4.** ORS 418.658 is amended to read:

19 418.658. (1) The program director of the Oregon Youth Corps shall estab-  
20 lish within the Oregon Youth Employment Program established under ORS  
21 660.353 a separate program known as the Oregon Community Stewardship  
22 Corps. In addition to the established purposes of the Oregon Youth Corps,  
23 the purpose of the Oregon Community Stewardship Corps is to promote  
24 community service activities throughout the state for a broad cross section  
25 of Oregon disadvantaged and at-risk youth through programs that also in-  
26 clude appropriate educational and job training opportunities for participants.

27 (2) In addition to projects submitted under ORS 418.660 (1), projects of the  
28 Oregon Community Stewardship Corps may include, but shall not be limited  
29 to:

30 (a) Child care services.

31 (b) Elderly and disabled care services.

1 (c) Literacy education programs.

2 (d) Recycling and other waste reduction services.

3 (3) The Oregon Community Stewardship Corps shall offer employment and  
4 educational opportunities of at least three but not more than 12 months'  
5 duration for selected participants.

6 (4) Under rules adopted by the Higher Education Coordinating Commis-  
7 sion, participants who successfully complete any program under this section  
8 shall be eligible for up to \$1,500 in support vouchers that can be used to pay  
9 for tuition, books or other items or services that enhance and support edu-  
10 cation or employment.

11 (5) All Oregonians who are at least 13 years of age and under 25 years  
12 of age are eligible to participate in the program. To ensure that Oregon  
13 Community Stewardship Corps participants represent a broad cross section  
14 of Oregonians, special emphasis shall be given to recruiting school dropouts  
15 and other disadvantaged and at-risk youth, according to criteria established  
16 by the Oregon Youth [*Corps*] **Works** Advisory Board **created under section**  
17 **1 of this 2023 Act.**

18 (6) To the extent practicable, the program director shall enlist state and  
19 federal agencies, local government, nonprofit organizations and private  
20 businesses, and any combination of such entities, to act as sponsors for pro-  
21 grams administered under this section. Selection of sponsors shall be based  
22 on criteria that include the following:

23 (a) The availability of other resources on a matching basis, including  
24 contributions from private sources, other federal, state and local agencies,  
25 and moneys available through the federal Workforce Innovation and Oppor-  
26 tunity Act;

27 (b) The provision of related educational and job training programs to  
28 participants, including but not limited to school and college coursework,  
29 training for approved high school equivalency tests such as the General Ed-  
30 ucational Development (GED), project-related education and professional  
31 training;

1 (c) Assurances that proposed projects will not displace existing employees  
2 or duplicate existing private or government programs; and

3 (d) Assurances that proposed projects are devoted to the enhancement of  
4 the community and are not based in maintenance activities and that these  
5 projects meet an identified need.

6 (7) In consultation with the advisory board, the program director shall  
7 make grants for programs administered under this section.

8 **SECTION 5.** ORS 418.660 is amended to read:

9 418.660. (1) The programs established under ORS 418.650 to 418.663 may  
10 include, but shall not be limited to, projects such as:

11 (a) Rangeland conservation, rehabilitation and improvement;

12 (b) Endangered species and other wildlife habitat conservation, rehabili-  
13 tation and improvement;

14 (c) Urban revitalization;

15 (d) Historical and cultural site preservation and maintenance;

16 (e) Recreational area development, maintenance, improvement and  
17 beautification;

18 (f) Road and trail maintenance and improvement;

19 (g) Soil conservation work, including erosion control;

20 (h) Flood, drought and storm damage assistance and relief;

21 (i) Stream, lake, waterfront harbor and port improvement and pollution  
22 control;

23 (j) Fish culture and habitat maintenance and improvement;

24 (k) Insect, disease, rodent and other pestilence control;

25 (L) Improvement of abandoned railroad land and right of way;

26 (m) Land reclamation and improvement, including strip-mined lands, pub-  
27 lic landscape work and tree planting programs;

28 (n) Energy conservation projects including assistance in the performance  
29 of energy efficiency audits, weatherization and renewable resource enhance-  
30 ment;

31 (o) Emergency assistance in times of natural or other disaster;

1 (p) Recycling projects; and

2 (q) Garden, greenhouse and farming programs.

3 (2) In consultation with the Oregon Youth [Corps] **Works** Advisory Board  
4 **created under section 1 of this 2023 Act** and the executive director of the  
5 Higher Education Coordinating Commission, or the designee of the executive  
6 director, the program director of the Oregon Youth Corps shall ensure that  
7 projects selected under ORS 418.650 to 418.663 shall be consistent with all  
8 other provisions of applicable state and federal law relating to the manage-  
9 ment, oversight and administration of affected public lands.

10 **SECTION 6.** ORS 476.696 is amended to read:

11 476.696. (1) As used in this section, “eligible organization” includes  
12 Oregon-based nonprofit youth development organizations, **federally recog-**  
13 **nized Indian tribes in this state** and public entities that provide programs  
14 of job training, skill development and forest-related or rangeland-related ca-  
15 reer path training.

16 [(2) *The Oregon Conservation Corps Advisory Committee is established*  
17 *within the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for the purpose of*  
18 *managing the Oregon Conservation Corps Program.*]

19 [(3) *The Governor shall determine the number of members on the committee*  
20 *and appoint the members.*]

21 [(4)] (2) The [committee] **Oregon Youth Works Advisory Board created**  
22 **under section 1 of this 2023 Act** shall, in collaboration with a qualified  
23 nonprofit foundation, actively seek and source private donations to support  
24 the Oregon Conservation Corps Program.

25 [(5)] (3) The [committee] **advisory board** may direct the expenditure of  
26 moneys from the Oregon Conservation Corps Fund for a promotional website  
27 and materials to solicit private funds.

28 [(6) *Members may not receive compensation for service on the committee,*  
29 *but, subject to any applicable laws regulating travel and other expenses of state*  
30 *officers and employees, may be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel and*  
31 *other expenses incurred in the performance of committee duties with moneys*

1 *available to the commission for the purpose of reimbursing the members.]*

2 [(7)] (4) The [committee] **advisory board** shall [administer] **advise the**  
3 **Higher Education Coordinating Commission on the implementation of**  
4 a grant process that:

5 (a) Provides funding to support the work conducted by the Oregon Con-  
6 servation Corps Program.

7 (b) Defines and uses an equity lens in awarding grants by identifying and  
8 supporting populations with greater vulnerability, including communities of  
9 color, indigenous communities, communities with members who have limited  
10 proficiency in English and communities with lower-income members.

11 (c) Awards grants to eligible organizations.

12 (d) Ensures that grant awards support activities described in ORS 476.694  
13 (1) and subsection [(8)] (5) of this section.

14 (e) Establishes guidelines for prioritizing grant-supported projects to re-  
15 duce community fire risks, promote youth and young adult workforce devel-  
16 opment and educational experiences and reduce hazardous fuels.

17 [(8)] (5) The [committee] **commission** shall consult with the State  
18 Forestry Department to ensure that the grant process awards funds to pro-  
19 posals that:

20 (a) Protect at-risk communities and infrastructure within the wildland-  
21 urban interface, as described in ORS 477.503.

22 (b) Meet standards for fuel treatment established by the department.

23 [(9)] (6) The [committee] **advisory board** shall biennially submit a report,  
24 on the timeline described in ORS 293.640, to an appropriate committee or  
25 interim committee of the Legislative Assembly, as described in ORS 192.245,  
26 and to the State Wildfire Programs Director and Wildfire Programs Advisory  
27 Council, regarding the expenditure of moneys deposited in the Oregon Con-  
28 servation Corps Fund.

29 **SECTION 7.** ORS 476.698 is amended to read:

30 476.698. (1) The Oregon Conservation Corps Fund is established in the  
31 State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned

1 by the Oregon Conservation Corps Fund shall be credited to the fund.

2 (2) The fund may receive contributions from individuals and private or-  
3 ganizations.

4 (3) Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Higher Ed-  
5 ucation Coordinating Commission to be used as directed by the Oregon  
6 [*Conservation Corps Advisory Committee*] **Youth Works Advisory Board**  
7 **created under section 1 of this 2023 Act** and for related administrative  
8 expenses of the commission.

9 (4) The commission shall keep records of all moneys credited to and de-  
10 posited in the fund and the activity or program against which each with-  
11 drawal from the fund is charged.

12 **SECTION 8. Section 1 of this 2023 Act and the amendments to ORS**  
13 **418.653, 418.657, 418.658, 418.660, 476.696 and 476.698 by sections 2 to 7 of**  
14 **this 2023 Act become operative on January 1, 2024.**

15 **SECTION 9. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission may**  
16 **take any action before the operative date specified in section 8 of this**  
17 **2023 Act that is necessary for the commission to exercise, on or after**  
18 **the operative date specified in section 8 of this 2023 Act, all of the**  
19 **duties, functions and powers conferred on the commission by section**  
20 **1 of this 2023 Act and the amendments to ORS 418.653, 418.657, 418.658,**  
21 **418.660, 476.696 and 476.698 by sections 2 to 7 of this 2023 Act.**

22 **SECTION 10. This 2023 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the**  
23 **date on which the 2023 regular session of the Eighty-second Legislative**  
24 **Assembly adjourns sine die.**

25