

HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 2979

By COMMITTEE ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

March 24

1 On page 2 of the printed bill, after line 4, insert:

2 “(4) The department may retain, from any disbursement made to the department for the purposes
3 of carrying out the provisions of this section, an amount necessary to cover costs incurred by the
4 department in administering the grant program described in this section. Administration costs may
5 include, but are not limited to, any outreach conducted by the department and personnel necessary
6 to administer the grant program.”.

7 In line 5, delete “(4)” and insert “(5)”.

8 Delete lines 12 through 19 and insert:

9 **“SECTION 5. (1) As used in this section, ‘dental professional’ includes dentists, dental
10 hygienists, dental assistants, dental therapists and dental health aides.**

11 **“(2) The Oregon Health Authority shall, through the health care provider incentive pro-
12 gram created under ORS 676.454 and in consultation with the Office of Rural Health, issue
13 grants to support and increase the recruitment and retention of dental professionals in all
14 regions of this state. The authority may issue grants to dental professionals, and to federally
15 qualified health centers and other employers of dental professionals, that provide dental care
16 in underserved areas of this state.**

17 **“(3) In issuing grants under this section, the authority shall prioritize recruitment and
18 retention of dental professionals in rural areas, low-income communities and tribal commu-
19 nities.”.**

20 Delete lines 24 through 32 and insert:

21 **“SECTION 7. (1) The Oregon Health Authority shall develop and implement an education
22 and mentoring program to promote the entry into dental professions by members of federally
23 recognized Indian tribes in Oregon.**

24 **“(2) The authority may carry out its duty under this section by entering into an agree-
25 ment with a federally recognized Indian tribe in this state or a tribal organization, as defined
26 in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (P.L. 93-638), in this
27 state to develop and implement the program described in subsection (1) of this section.”.**

28 Delete lines 37 through 45 and delete page 3 and insert:

29 **“SECTION 9. (1) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall develop and
30 maintain a website to provide information about dental assistant training and certification,
31 including information about eligibility requirements and other requirements of the Oregon
32 Board of Dentistry, required core education competencies and a list of existing resources for
33 dental assistant training programs and education modules. The website must be available
34 free of cost to all dentists licensed to practice in this state.**

35 **“(2) The commission shall convene, and facilitate discussion among, relevant**

1 stakeholders in developing and maintaining the website described in subsection (1) of this
2 section. The stakeholders may include, but are not limited to, representatives of dental as-
3 sistant education programs at community colleges in this state and dental professional as-
4 sociations.

5 “(3) The commission, in consultation with the stakeholders described in subsection (2)
6 of this section:

7 “(a) Shall provide financial assistance to individuals seeking access to existing online
8 dental assistant training materials and resources; and

9 “(b) May develop additional dental assistant training materials as the commission deter-
10 mines necessary.

11 “(4) The commission may adopt rules to carry out this section.

12 “SECTION 10. There is appropriated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission,
13 for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$2,000,000
14 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of section 9 of this 2023 Act.”.