House Bill 2979

Sponsored by Representatives PHAM H, JAVADI, NOSSE, BYNUM, Senator CAMPOS; Senator PATTERSON (at the request of Oregon Dental Association) (Presession filed.)

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.

Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission to establish program to issue grants to community colleges to promote and increase dental assistant and dental hygienist training programs in Oregon.

Directs Department of Education to establish program to issue grants to school districts or education service districts to promote and increase career and technical education related to dental health professions.

Directs Oregon Health Authority to issue grants through health care provider incentive program to support and increase recruitment and retention of dental professionals.

Directs authority to develop and implement education and mentoring program to promote entry into dental professions by members of Indian tribes in Oregon.

Directs State Workforce and Talent Development Board to develop educational module relating to dental assisting.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to dental professions.

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

SECTION 1. (1) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall establish a program to issue grants to community colleges, as defined in ORS 341.005, to promote and increase dental assistant and dental hygienist training programs in Oregon. Community colleges may use grant moneys awarded under this section to support, expand, increase enrollment in, provide scholarships for and market dental assistant or dental hygienist training programs.

(2) Community colleges may apply to the commission for grants. An application must contain a statement of the community college's plan for the grant, if awarded, and any other information required by rule of the commission.

(3) Before August 1 of each year, and subject to the availability of funding, the commission shall award grants to applicants whose applications meet all requirements specified by the commission, in order of receipt of applications.

(4) The commission shall adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this section, including specifying the required form and contents of an application for a grant under this section.

SECTION 2. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of $5,000,000 to carry out the provisions of section 1 of this 2023 Act.

SECTION 3. (1) The Department of Education shall establish a program to issue grants to school districts or education service districts to promote and increase career and technical education related to dental health professions.

(2) Districts may apply to the department for grants. An application must contain a statement of the district's plan for the grant, if awarded, and any other information required

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.

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by rule of the department.

(3) Before August 1 of each year, and subject to the availability of funding, the department shall award grants to applicants whose applications meet all requirements specified by the department, in order of receipt of applications.

(4) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this section, including specifying the required form and contents of an application for a grant under this section.

SECTION 4. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Department of Education, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of $5,000,000 to carry out the provisions of section 3 of this 2023 Act.

SECTION 5. (1) As used in this section, “dental professional” includes dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, dental therapists and dental community health aides.

(2) The Oregon Health Authority shall, through the health care provider incentive program created under ORS 676.454 and in consultation with the Office of Rural Health, issue grants to support and increase the recruitment and retention of dental professionals in all regions of this state.

(3) In issuing grants under this section, the authority shall prioritize recruitment and retention of dental professionals in rural areas, low-income communities and tribal lands.

SECTION 6. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of $7,000,000 to carry out the provisions of section 5 of this 2023 Act.

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

(2) The authority may carry out its duty under this section by entering into an agreement with an Indian tribe or tribal entity to develop and implement the program described in subsection (1) of this section.

(3) As used in this section:

(a) “Indian tribe” means a federally recognized Indian tribe in Oregon.

(b) “Tribal entity” means an entity wholly owned by an Indian tribe.

SECTION 8. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of $1,000,000 to carry out the provisions of section 7 of this 2023 Act.

SECTION 9. (1) The State Workforce and Talent Development Board shall develop an educational module that serves as an introduction to the profession of dental assisting. The board shall make the module available to the public at no cost.

(2) The board shall coordinate with the Department of Education, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, the Oregon Health Authority and any other relevant state agencies to promote and market the module.

SECTION 10. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of $2,000,000, for the State Workforce and Tal-
ent Development Board to carry out the provisions of section 9 of this 2023 Act.