A-Bill for an Act

Relating to higher education; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. (1) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall establish a grant program for the purpose of supporting organizations to expand the scope and community reach of college access and success programs.

(2) In order to be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an organization must:

(a) Be a not-for-profit corporation that is tax exempt under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code;

(b) Be a community-based organization; or

(c) Be a public institution of higher education as defined in ORS 350.260.

(3) In awarding grants under this section, the commission shall consider:

(a) Whether an eligible organization has a demonstrated history of providing successful college access and success programs; and

(b) Whether an eligible organization has a demonstrated history of providing programs and services to populations that are historically underrepresented in post-secondary institutions of education.

(4) The commission shall adopt any rules necessary for the administration of this section, including but not limited to any requirements related to:

(a) Specifying the form and timelines for submitting an application for a grant under this section;

(b) Determining whether an organization is eligible for a grant under this section;

(c) Calculating the amount to award to grant recipients under this section; and

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.
(d) Collecting data required to evaluate program effectiveness.

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, for the purpose of administering the grant program described in section 1 of this 2023 Act.

SECTION 3. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect on July 1, 2023.