AN ACT

Relating to scholarships for diverse teacher candidates; amending ORS 348.295.

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

SECTION 1. ORS 348.295, as amended by section 4, chapter 44, Oregon Laws 2022, is amended to read:

348.295. (1) In addition to any other form of student financial aid authorized by law, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission may award scholarships to culturally and linguistically diverse teacher candidates to use at approved educator preparation providers, as defined in ORS 342.120, for the purpose of advancing the goal described in ORS 342.437 (1)(a).

(2) Scholarships awarded under this section shall be in amounts of $12,000 each academic year, for a maximum of two academic years.

(3) The commission shall adopt rules necessary for the implementation and administration of this section in consultation with the Educator Advancement Council and the Department of Education.

(4) As used in this section:

(a) “Teacher candidate” means an individual who is preparing to be a teacher or other school professional licensed, registered or certified by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission.

(b) “Teacher candidate” does not mean an individual who is preparing to be an administrator.