

A-Engrossed
House Bill 2773

Ordered by the House March 17
Including House Amendments dated March 17

Sponsored by Representative RUIZ, Senator PATTERSON; Representative REYNOLDS, Senators CAMPOS, DEMBROW, GELSER BLOUIN (Pre-session 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.

Requires Oregon Health Authority to provide incentives to increase recruitment and retention of local public health professionals.

[Directs authority to provide grants to local public health agencies that provide interns and fellows with training in, and clinical supervision of, nursing duties performed in local public health agencies.]

Directs authority to provide grants to employees of local public health agencies to provide preceptorships to students seeking nursing degrees, internships to students seeking a master's degree in public health and other educational opportunities to college students seeking training in public health.

Requires authority to study administration and effectiveness of incentives and grants and submit two reports to Legislative Assembly.

Appropriates moneys to authority for purposes of funding incentives and grants.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to opportunities for local public health professionals; and prescribing an effective date.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Local Public Health Incentive Subaccount is established in the Health**
5 **Care Provider Incentive Fund established in ORS 676.450. Interest earned by the Local Public**
6 **Health Incentive Subaccount shall be credited to the subaccount. The Local Public Health**
7 **Incentive Subaccount consists of moneys appropriated to the subaccount by the Legislative**
8 **Assembly, grants, donations, contributions or gifts received from public sources under sub-**
9 **section (2) of this section and interest earned upon moneys in the subaccount.**

10 **(2) The Oregon Health Authority may accept grants, donations, contributions or gifts**
11 **from any public source for deposit in the subaccount.**

12 **(3) Moneys in the subaccount are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Health Au-**
13 **thority for carrying out the provisions of section 2 of this 2023 Act.**

14 **SECTION 2. (1) The Oregon Health Authority shall provide incentives to increase the**
15 **recruitment and retention of all public health professionals in the local public health**
16 **workforce who have associate, bachelor's, master's or doctoral degrees or other credentials**
17 **and who can provide culturally responsive health services at local public health authorities,**
18 **as defined in ORS 431.003, that serve underserved populations and communities, including**
19 **but not limited to:**

20 **(a) American Indian or Alaska Native people;**

21 **(b) People of color;**

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 (c) Individuals who identify as members of the LGBTQ+ community;
- 2 (d) Veterans;
- 3 (e) Persons with disabilities; and
- 4 (f) Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

5 (2) The authority shall increase access to services for rural and underserved communi-
6 ties by:

7 (a) Expanding funding to provide incentives to traditional health workers, unlicensed and
8 licensed local public health providers and other local public health professionals who are
9 culturally competent.

10 (b) Developing programs and providing incentives to increase the number of individuals
11 training for and entering an occupation in the field of public health and to improve the re-
12 tention of the local public health workforce in this state through:

13 (A) Scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students who are pursuing a program
14 or course of study that focuses on public health;

15 (B) Student loan forgiveness and repayment assistance;

16 (C) Housing assistance;

17 (D) Sign-on bonuses;

18 (E) Flextime and part-time opportunities;

19 (F) Retention bonuses;

20 (G) Professional development;

21 (H) Child care subsidies;

22 (I) Tuition assistance;

23 (J) Bonuses and stipends for supervisors of interns or fellows;

24 (K) Financial assistance for licensing or other certification examination fees and costs
25 of examination preparation courses;

26 (L) Living stipends for students enrolled at an institution of higher education in a pro-
27 gram or course of study that focuses on public health; and

28 (M) Credit counseling services.

29 (3) The authority shall develop by rule a program to award local public health profes-
30 sionals student loan forgiveness or student loan repayment assistance based on criteria
31 specified by the authority, which may include tenure or the completion of a commitment of
32 service at a local public health authority.

33 (4) The authority may adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this section.

34 **SECTION 3.** (1) As used in this section, “local public health authority” and “local public
35 health administrator” have the meanings given those terms in ORS 431.003.

36 (2) The Oregon Health Authority shall establish a program to provide grants, in consul-
37 tation with local public health administrators or their designees, to employees of local public
38 health authorities who:

39 (a) Engage in a preceptorship during a public health rotation with students seeking a
40 nursing degree;

41 (b) Supervise an internship at a local public health authority for students seeking a
42 master’s degree in public health; and

43 (c) Provide other opportunities to college students to receive training in, and supervision
44 of, duties performed at a local public health authority.

45 (3) Moneys received under this section do not constitute “compensation” for purposes

1 of ORS 652.210 to 652.235.

2 (4) The authority shall adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this section.

3 **SECTION 4.** (1) The Oregon Health Authority shall study the administration and effec-
4 tiveness of the programs established under sections 2 and 3 of this 2023 Act and submit two
5 reports in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and may include recommendations for leg-
6 islation, to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health and the
7 Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services. At mini-
8 mum, the reports must:

9 (a) Provide recommendations to improve the programs;

10 (b) Identify the number of individuals who received financial support through the pro-
11 grams, the subject areas in which individuals operated and the duration for which individuals
12 worked in public health following participation in the programs; and

13 (c) Examine other information as determined by the authority by rule.

14 (2)(a) The first report must be submitted no later than November 1, 2026.

15 (b) The second report must be submitted no later than November 1, 2028.

16 (3) The authority shall provide notice to all local public health authorities, the Joint In-
17 terim Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services and the Emergency
18 Board if the funds deposited under section 6 of this 2023 Act in the Local Public Health In-
19 centive Subaccount established under section 1 of this 2023 Act are expected to be exhausted
20 before July 1, 2029.

21 **SECTION 5.** Section 4 of this 2023 Act is repealed on July 1, 2029.

22 **SECTION 6.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
23 ated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the
24 General Fund, the amount of \$40,000,000 for deposit in the Local Public Health Incentive
25 Subaccount established under section 1 of this 2023 Act.

26 **SECTION 7.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
27 ated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the
28 General Fund, the amount of \$7,000,000 for carrying out the provisions of section 3 of this
29 2023 Act.

30 **SECTION 8.** This 2023 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2023
31 regular session of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.
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