A-Bill for an Act

Relating to higher education affordability; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:

(a) “Basic needs programming” means a program established by a public institution of higher education to help students at the public institution apply for and receive assistance from benefits programs as defined in ORS 350.262.

(b) “Public institution of higher education” means:

(A) A public university listed in ORS 352.002; and

(B) A community college operated under ORS chapter 341.

(2) When the Higher Education Coordinating Commission determines that sufficient moneys are available, the commission shall administer a grant program to provide funding for basic needs programming at each public institution of higher education. The commission shall establish a formula for the distribution of grants awarded under this subsection. The total amount of grants awarded shall be based on the percentage of students at each public institution of higher education who are recipients of an award from the Oregon Opportunity Grant program established under ORS 348.205.

(3) The commission shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245 to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to higher education no later than September 15, 2025. The report submitted under this subsection must include an assessment of how the awarding of grants under this section impacted the basic needs programming at each public institution of higher education.

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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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 ending June 30, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of $5,000,000, to fund the grant program described in section 1 of this 2024 Act.

SECTION 3. Section 1 of this 2024 Act is repealed on January 2, 2026.

SECTION 4. This 2024 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2024 Act takes effect on its passage.