

# Senate Bill 785

Sponsored by Senator NASH, Representative LEVY B; Representative HARBICK (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 **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act creates a scholarship program for ag teachers. (Flesch Readability Score: 75.5).

Establishes the Agriculture Education Scholarship Program to provide free tuition and fees for qualifying agriculture education students in exchange for the student's commitment to work in a rural community after graduation.

Appropriates moneys for the 2025-2027 biennium to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for the purpose of administering the Agriculture Education Scholarship Program.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to an agriculture education scholarship.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section, "institution of higher education" has the meaning**  
5 **given that term in ORS 348.582.**

6 **(2) There is created the Agriculture Education Scholarship Program, to be administered**  
7 **by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission in accordance with rules adopted by the**  
8 **commission. The commission shall determine who may receive scholarships under subsection**  
9 **(5) of this section.**

10 **(3) A prospective agriculture educator who wishes to participate in the program shall**  
11 **submit an application to the commission in accordance with rules adopted by the commis-**  
12 **sion. To be eligible to receive an Agriculture Education Scholarship, a prospective agricul-**  
13 **ture educator must execute a service agreement stating that:**

14 **(a) Immediately upon the recipient's completion of a qualifying agriculture degree, as**  
15 **determined by the commission by rule, the recipient will serve as an agriculture educator in**  
16 **a rural community in this state for at least the number of years that the recipient was en-**  
17 **rolled in the qualifying agriculture degree program at an institution of higher education for**  
18 **which the recipient received a scholarship; and**

19 **(b) While serving as an agriculture educator in a rural community in this state, the re-**  
20 **recipient must meet other requirements established by the commission by rule.**

21 **(4) The commission may select recipients from among the prospective agriculture edu-**  
22 **cators who submit applications under subsection (3) of this section.**

23 **(5) The commission shall provide a scholarship covering the entire cost of tuition and**  
24 **fees for a recipient's education in a qualifying agriculture degree program.**

25 **(6)(a) A recipient who fails to complete the agriculture degree for which the scholarship**  
26 **was awarded shall repay to the commission the amount of scholarship received.**

27 **(b) A recipient who fails to complete the terms of the service agreement shall repay to**  
28 **the commission the amount of scholarship received. The total amount to be paid under this**

**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 paragraph must be reduced on a pro rata basis for every full month that the recipient com-  
2 plied with the service agreement.

3 (c) Upon the death of a recipient, any obligation of the recipient under this subsection  
4 to repay the commission must be canceled.

5 (d) In any case of extreme hardship or for other good cause shown, the commission may  
6 waive, in whole or in part, the right of the commission to recover moneys made available  
7 under this section.

8 (7) In the event that a recipient is required to repay the commission under subsection  
9 (6) of this section, the commission may:

10 (a) Collect any amounts due;

11 (b) Have any amounts due be collected by the Collections Unit in the Department of Re-  
12 venue under ORS 293.250; or

13 (c) Contract with a collections agency to collect any amounts due.

14 (8) Any moneys received or collected by the commission under subsections (6) and (7) of  
15 this section must be deposited into a separate fund held by the commission for the purpose  
16 of carrying out the provisions of this section. The commission may not use the moneys in  
17 the fund for any other purpose.

18 SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2025 Act first applies to the 2026-2027 academic year.

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for  
20 the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the  
21 purpose of administering the Agriculture Education Scholarship Program created in section  
22 1 of this 2025 Act.

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