

76th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY--2011 Regular Session

NOTE: Matter within { + braces and plus signs + } in an amended section is new. Matter within { - braces and minus signs - } is existing law to be omitted. New sections are within { + braces and plus signs + } .

LC 3189

A-Engrossed

House Bill 3471

Ordered by the House April 14
Including House Amendments dated April 14

Sponsored by Representatives DEMBROW, WINGARD; Representative HUNT

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 state institution of higher education, community college or Oregon Health and Science University to waive tuition and fees for current or former foster child under 25 years of age. { + Conditions receipt of waiver. + } Expands college scholarship program to include current foster children. { + Directs Oregon Student Assistance Commission to adopt rules to prioritize awarding of Oregon Opportunity Grants to current foster children and former foster children when grant funds are not sufficient to serve all eligible students. + }

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to higher education; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 348.205, 348.270 and 348.570.

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

SECTION 1. { + (1) Notwithstanding ORS 341.290, 351.070 (3) or 353.050, a current foster child or former foster child under 25 years of age who enrolls in an institution of higher education as an undergraduate student not later than three years after the date the student was removed from the care of the Department of Human Services, the date the student graduated from high school or the date the student received the equivalent of a high school diploma, whichever date is earliest, shall have the amount of tuition and all fees levied against the student waived if attending an institution of higher education listed in ORS 352.002, a community college operated under ORS chapter 341 or Oregon Health and Science University for purposes of pursuing an initial undergraduate degree.

(2) A student who is a current foster child or former foster child is entitled to waiver of tuition and all fees under subsection (1) of this section until the student has received the equivalent of four years of undergraduate education.

(3) As a condition of receiving a tuition waiver for an academic year, a current foster child or former foster child must:

(a) Complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for that academic year; and

(b) For years after the first academic year at an institution of higher education, have completed a minimum of 30 volunteer service hours in the previous academic year performing community service activities such as mentoring foster youth or assisting in the provision of peer support service activities, according to policies developed by the institution of higher education at which the current foster child or former foster child is enrolled.

(4) A waiver of tuition and all fees under subsection (1) of this section may be reduced by the amount of any federal aid scholarships or grants, an award from the Oregon Opportunity Grant program established under ORS 348.205 and any other aid received from the institution of higher education. For the purposes of this subsection, 'federal aid scholarships or grants'

does not include Chafee Education and Training Grant vouchers (P.L. 107-133).

(5) As used in this section, 'former foster child' means an individual who, for a total of 12 or more months while between 16 and 21 years of age, was a ward of the court pursuant to ORS 419B.100 (1)(b) to (e) and in the legal custody of the Department of Human Services for out-of-home placement. + }

SECTION 2. ORS 348.270 is amended to read:

348.270. (1) In addition to any other scholarships provided by law, the Oregon Student Assistance Commission shall award scholarships in any state institution under the State Board of Higher Education, in the Oregon Health and Science University, in any community college operated under ORS chapter 341, or in any Oregon-based regionally accredited independent institution, to any student applying for enrollment or who is enrolled therein, who is:

(a) The natural child, adopted child or stepchild of any public safety officer who, in the line of duty, was killed or so disabled, as determined by the Oregon Student Assistance Commission, that the income of the public safety officer is less than that earned by public safety officers performing duties comparable to those performed at the highest rank or grade attained by the public safety officer; or

(b) A { + current foster child or + } former foster child who enrolls in an institution of higher education as an undergraduate student not later than three years from the date the student was removed from the care of the Department of Human Services, the date the student graduated from high school or the date the student received the equivalent of a high school diploma, whichever date is earliest.

(2) Scholarships awarded under this section to students who are dependents of public safety officers or who are { + current foster children or + } former foster children shall equal the amount of tuition and all fees levied by the institution against the recipient of the scholarship. However, scholarships awarded to students who attend independent institutions shall not exceed the amount of tuition and all fees levied by the University of Oregon.

(3) If the student who is the dependent of a deceased public safety officer continues to remain enrolled in a state institution of higher education or a community college or an independent institution within the State of Oregon, the student shall be entitled to renewal of the scholarship until the student has received the equivalent of four years of undergraduate education and four years of post-graduate education.

(4) If the student who is a { + current foster child or + } former foster child or who is the dependent of a public safety officer with a disability continues to remain enrolled in a state institution of higher education or a community college or an independent institution within the State of Oregon, the student shall be entitled to renewal of the scholarship until the student

has received the equivalent of four years of undergraduate education.

(5) The Oregon Student Assistance Commission may require proof of the student's relationship to a public safety officer described in subsection (1) of this section or proof that the student is a { + current foster child or + } former foster child.

(6) As used in this section:

(a) 'Former foster child' means an individual who, for a total of 12 or more months while between the ages of 16 and 21, was a ward of the court pursuant to ORS 419B.100 (1)(b) to (e) and in the legal custody of the Department of Human Services for out-of-home placement.

(b) 'Public safety officer' means:

(A) A firefighter or police officer as those terms are defined in ORS 237.610.

(B) A member of the Oregon State Police.

SECTION 3. ORS 348.570 is amended to read:

348.570. (1) There is established in the State Treasury a fund, separate and distinct from the General Fund, to be known as the Oregon Student Assistance Fund for investment as provided by ORS 293.701 to 293.820 and for the payment of the expenses of the Oregon Student Assistance Commission in carrying out the purposes of ORS 348.210 to 348.250, 348.505 to 348.615, 348.696 and 348.992. Interest earned by the fund shall be credited to the fund.

(2) There is established in the State Treasury a fund, separate and distinct from the General Fund, to be known as the Alternative Student Loan Program Fund for investment as provided

by ORS 293.701 to 293.820 and for the payment of expenses of the commission in carrying out the purposes of ORS 348.625 to 348.695. This fund, including the interest earnings on the fund, if any, is continuously appropriated to the commission for those purposes for which such funds were provided to, received or collected by the commission.

(3)(a) There is established in the General Fund an account to be known as the Nursing Services Account. Funds in the account shall be used for the payment of expenses of the Nursing Services Program created in ORS 442.540.

(b) The account shall consist of:

(A) Funds appropriated to the Oregon Student Assistance Commission for deposit into the account;

(B) Collections and penalties received by the commission under ORS 442.545; and

(C) Any donations or grants received by the commission for purposes of the Nursing Services Program.

(c) Any funds in the account that are not expended in any biennium shall be retained in the account and may be expended in subsequent biennia.

(4) There is established in the State Treasury a fund, separate and distinct from the General Fund, to be known as the { - Former - } Foster Youth Scholarship Fund. Moneys received from appropriations, donations and grants shall be credited to the fund. Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Student Assistance Commission for the purposes of investment, as provided by ORS 293.701 to 293.820, and for carrying out the provisions of ORS 348.270 (1)(b). Interest earned by the fund shall be credited to the fund.

(5) There is established in the State Treasury a fund, separate and distinct from the General Fund, to be known as the ASPIRE Program Fund. Moneys received from donations and grants shall be credited to the ASPIRE Program Fund. Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Student Assistance Commission for the purposes of investment, as provided by ORS 293.701 to 293.820, and for carrying out the provisions of ORS

348.500. Interest earned by the fund shall be credited to the fund.

(6)(a) There is established in the State Treasury the Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Fund, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned on the Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Fund shall be credited to the fund. Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Student Assistance Commission for carrying out ORS 348.440 to 348.448. The Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Fund consists of:

(A) Moneys appropriated to the commission for the Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Program created in ORS 348.444; and

(B) Grants, gifts or donations received by the commission for the program.

(b) Any unexpended funds in the fund at the end of a biennium shall be retained in the fund and may be expended in subsequent biennia.

SECTION 4. ORS 348.205 is amended to read:

348.205. (1) The Oregon Opportunity Grant program is established within the Oregon Student Assistance Commission.

(2) Under the program, the cost of education of a qualified student shall be shared by the student, the family of the student, the federal government and the state.

(3) The commission shall determine the cost of education of a qualified student based on the type of eligible post-secondary institution the student is attending. The cost of education equals:

(a) For a student attending a community college, the average cost of education of attending a community college in this state;

(b) For a student attending an institution under the direction of the State Board of Higher Education, the average cost of education of attending an institution under the direction of the board;

(c) For a student attending a two-year Oregon-based, generally accredited, not-for-profit institution of higher education, the average cost of education of attending a community college in this state; and

(d) For a student attending the Oregon Health and Science University or a four-year Oregon-based, generally accredited, not-for-profit institution of higher education, the average cost of education of attending an institution under the direction of the board.

(4)(a) The commission shall determine the amount of the student share. The student share shall be based on:

(A) The type of eligible post-secondary institution the student

is attending;

(B) The number of hours of work that the commission determines may be reasonably expected from the student; and

(C) The amount of loans that the commission determines would constitute a manageable debt burden for the student.

(b) The student shall determine how to cover the student share through income from work, loans, savings and scholarships.

(c) The student share for a student who attends a community college may not exceed the amount that the commission determines a student may earn based on the number of hours of work reasonably expected from the student under paragraph (a) of this subsection.

(d) The student share for a student who attends an eligible post-secondary institution that is not a community college may not exceed the sum of the amount that the commission determines a student may receive as loans plus the amount a student may earn based on the number of hours of work reasonably expected from the student under paragraph (a) of this subsection.

(5) The commission shall determine the amount of the family share. The family share shall be based on the resources of the family.

(6) The commission shall determine the amount of the federal share based on how much the student or the student's family is expected to receive from the federal government as grants, loans, tax credits or other student assistance.

(7)(a) The commission shall determine the amount of the state share. The state share shall be equal to the cost of education reduced by the student share, family share and amount received by the student from the federal government.

(b) The commission shall establish a minimum amount that a student may receive as a state share. If the commission determines that the amount of the state share of a student is below the minimum amount, the student may not receive the state share.

(c) In determining the amount of the state share, the commission shall consider the total amount available to award as grants to all qualified students. If the commission must reduce the amount of the state share under this paragraph, the commission may not reduce the amount of the state share awarded to students in the low income range in a greater proportion than the amount that the state share for students in other income ranges is reduced.

{ + (8)(a) The commission shall adopt rules that prioritize current foster children and former foster children for receiving Oregon Opportunity Grants when the Oregon Opportunity Grant program does not have sufficient funding to serve all eligible Oregon students.

(b) For the purposes of this subsection, 'former foster child' has the meaning given that term in section 1 of this 2011 Act. + }

SECTION 5. { + Section 1 of this 2011 Act and the amendments to ORS 348.205, 348.270 and 348.570 by sections 2 to 4 of this 2011 Act first apply to the 2012-2013 academic year. + }
