

Senate Bill 532

Sponsored by Senators GIROD, BATES; Senators MONROE, ROBLAN, Representatives KOMP, SPRENGER, WITT

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**.

Transfers administration of Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative from Oregon Health and Science University to Office of Rural Health.

Permits Health Care Workforce Committee to issue report identifying specific categories of health care practitioners most needed in designated service sites. Requires office to comply with committee report.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to scholarships for health care practitioners; creating new provisions; amending ORS
3 348.303, 413.017 and 442.480; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 348.303 is amended to read:

6 348.303. (1) As used in this section:

7 (a) **“Committee report” means a report issued by the Health Care Workforce Committee**
8 **established under ORS 413.017 that details the health care practitioners, by category, that**
9 **are most needed to serve at designated service sites.**

10 [(a)] (b) “Designated service site” means a rural health clinic as defined in 42 U.S.C.
11 1395x(aa)(2), a rural critical access hospital as defined in ORS 315.613, a federally qualified health
12 center as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1396d(l)(2) or any geographic area, population group or facility that
13 is located in Oregon and has been designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration
14 of the United States Department of Health and Human Services as a health professional shortage
15 area, a medically underserved area or a medically underserved population.

16 [(b)] (c) “Health care practitioner” means a:

17 (A) Physician licensed under ORS chapter 677;

18 (B) Dentist licensed under ORS chapter 679;

19 (C) Nurse practitioner licensed under ORS 678.375 to 678.390;

20 (D) Physician assistant licensed under ORS 677.505 to 677.525; or

21 (E) Certified registered nurse anesthetist licensed under ORS chapter 678.

22 (d) **“Health care program” means a course of study that:**

23 (A) **Meets the educational requirements for licensure as a health care practitioner;**

24 (B) **Is offered by a public or private educational institution in Oregon;**

25 (C) **Emphasizes training health care practitioners to serve in rural areas; and**

26 (D) **Is approved for participation in the Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative by the**
27 **Office of Rural Health.**

28 [(c)] (e) “Participant” means a person who has been selected by the [*Oregon Health and Science*
29 *University*] **Office of Rural Health** to receive a scholarship under subsection (5) of this section.

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 [(d)] (f) “Prospective health care practitioner” means a person who has been accepted into, but
 2 has not yet started, a health care program [*at the Oregon Health and Science University that meets*
 3 *the educational requirements for licensure as a physician, dentist, nurse practitioner, physician assist-*
 4 *ant or certified registered nurse anesthetist*].

5 [(e)] (g) “Service agreement” means the agreement executed by a prospective health care prac-
 6 titioner under subsection (3) of this section.

7 (2)(a) There is created the Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative, to be administered by the
 8 [*Oregon Health and Science University*] **Office of Rural Health** pursuant to rules adopted by the
 9 [*university*] **office**.

10 **(b) In administering the initiative, the office shall implement the recommendations set**
 11 **forth in any committee report regarding the percentage of available scholarship moneys that**
 12 **should be awarded in each health care practitioner category.**

13 (3) A prospective health care practitioner who wishes to participate in the initiative shall submit
 14 an application to the [*Oregon Health and Science University*] **Office of Rural Health** in accordance
 15 with rules adopted by the [*university*] **office**. To be eligible to be a participant in the initiative, a
 16 prospective health care practitioner must:

17 [(a)] *Have been accepted into, but not yet started, the first year of the prospective health care*
 18 *practitioner’s health care education at the Oregon Health and Science University;*]

19 [(b)] (a) Be considered a resident of Oregon under [*the university’s admission guidelines*] **rules**
 20 **adopted by the office;**

21 [(c)] (b) Execute a service agreement stating that:

22 (A) Immediately upon the prospective health care practitioner’s completion of the health care
 23 [*education degree, residency or training, as established for each degree by the Oregon Health and*
 24 *Science University by rule*] **program**, the participant will practice as a health care practitioner in
 25 a designated service site in this state approved by the [*university*] **office** for one year longer than
 26 the number of years the participant spent in the health care program for which the participant re-
 27 ceived a scholarship; and

28 (B) While practicing as a health care practitioner in a designated service site, the participant
 29 must see all patients, regardless of any patient’s ability to pay for services; and

30 [(d)] (c) Meet other requirements established by the [*university*] **office** by rule.

31 (4) The [*Oregon Health and Science University*] **Office of Rural Health** may select participants
 32 from among the prospective health care practitioners who submit applications as provided in sub-
 33 section (3) of this section. The [*university*] **office** shall give preference to prospective health care
 34 practitioners who are:

35 (a) Individuals [*admitted to the Oregon Health and Science University as a student from*] **of rural**
 36 **heritage, as defined by the [*university’s admission policy*] office by rule;**

37 (b) First generation college students; or

38 (c) Individuals from a diverse or underrepresented community.

39 (5) The [*Oregon Health and Science University*] **Office of Rural Health** shall provide a scholar-
 40 ship covering the entire cost of tuition and fees for the participant’s health care [*education at the*
 41 *university*] **program up to a maximum amount equal to the highest tuition and fees charged**
 42 **for an equivalent course of study by a public university listed in ORS 352.002 or by the**
 43 **Oregon Health and Science University.**

44 (6) A participant receiving a scholarship under subsection (5) of this section who fails to com-
 45 plete the terms of the service agreement shall repay **to the Office of Rural Health** the amount

1 received plus an additional penalty of 25 percent [*of the amount received to the Oregon Health and*
 2 *Science University*]. The total amount to be paid to the [*university*] **office** under this subsection shall
 3 be reduced for every full year that the participant complied with the service agreement on a pro
 4 rata basis, as computed by the total number of years agreed to in the service agreement.

5 (7) A participant receiving a scholarship under subsection (5) of this section who fails to com-
 6 plete the health care [*degree*] **program** for which the scholarship was awarded shall repay **to the**
 7 **Office of Rural Health** the amount received [*to the Oregon Health and Science University*].

8 (8) In the event that a participant is required to repay the [*Oregon Health and Science*
 9 *University*] **Office of Rural Health** under subsection (6) or (7) of this section, the [*university*] **office**
 10 may:

11 (a) Collect any amounts due;

12 (b) Have any amounts due be collected by the Collections Unit in the Department of Revenue
 13 under ORS 293.250; or

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

15 (9) Any moneys received or collected by the [*Oregon Health and Science University*] **Office of**
 16 **Rural Health** under [*subsections (6) to (8) of*] this section shall be deposited into [*a separate fund*
 17 *held by the university for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section*] **the Rural Health**
 18 **Care Revolving Account established under ORS 442.480 and shall be used for the purposes**
 19 **of the Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative**. The [*university*] **office** may not use the moneys
 20 [*in these funds*] **received or collected under this section** for any other purpose.

21 (10) The [*Oregon Health and Science University*] **Office of Rural Health** may accept [*funds*]
 22 **moneys** from any public or private source for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this
 23 section, **including but not limited to public or private grants, donations and gifts**.

24 (11) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year, the [*Oregon Health and Science*
 25 *University*] **Office of Rural Health** shall report to the Legislative Assembly on the status of the
 26 Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative. The report shall include, for the previous biennium:

27 (a) The total number of active participants in the initiative; and

28 (b) A breakdown of active participants in the initiative by health care practitioner category.

29 **SECTION 2.** ORS 413.017 is amended to read:

30 413.017. (1) The Oregon Health Policy Board shall establish the committees described in sub-
 31 sections (2) and (3) of this section.

32 (2)(a) The Public Health Benefit Purchasers Committee shall include individuals who purchase
 33 health care for the following:

34 (A) The Public Employees' Benefit Board.

35 (B) The Oregon Educators Benefit Board.

36 (C) Trustees of the Public Employees Retirement System.

37 (D) A city government.

38 (E) A county government.

39 (F) A special district.

40 (G) Any private nonprofit organization that receives the majority of its funding from the state
 41 and requests to participate on the committee.

42 (b) The Public Health Benefit Purchasers Committee shall:

43 (A) Identify and make specific recommendations to achieve uniformity across all public health
 44 benefit plan designs based on the best available clinical evidence, recognized best practices for
 45 health promotion and disease management, demonstrated cost-effectiveness and shared demographics

1 among the enrollees within the pools covered by the benefit plans.

2 (B) Develop an action plan for ongoing collaboration to implement the benefit design alignment
3 described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph and shall leverage purchasing to achieve benefit
4 uniformity if practicable.

5 (C) Continuously review and report to the Oregon Health Policy Board on the committee's
6 progress in aligning benefits while minimizing the cost shift to individual purchasers of insurance
7 without shifting costs to the private sector or the Oregon Health Insurance Exchange.

8 (c) The Oregon Health Policy Board shall work with the Public Health Benefit Purchasers
9 Committee to identify uniform provisions for state and local public contracts for health benefit plans
10 that achieve maximum quality and cost outcomes. The board shall collaborate with the committee
11 to develop steps to implement joint contract provisions. The committee shall identify a schedule for
12 the implementation of contract changes. The process for implementation of joint contract provisions
13 must include a review process to protect against unintended cost shifts to enrollees or agencies.

14 (d) Proposals and plans developed in accordance with this subsection shall be completed by
15 October 1, 2010, and shall be submitted to the Oregon Health Policy Board for its approval and
16 possible referral to the Legislative Assembly no later than December 31, 2010.

17 (3)(a) The Health Care Workforce Committee shall include individuals who have the collective
18 expertise, knowledge and experience in a broad range of health professions, health care education
19 and health care workforce development initiatives.

20 (b) The Health Care Workforce Committee shall coordinate efforts to recruit and educate health
21 care professionals and retain a quality workforce to meet the demand that will be created by the
22 expansion in health care coverage, system transformations and an increasingly diverse population.

23 (c) The Health Care Workforce Committee shall conduct an inventory of all grants and other
24 state resources available for addressing the need to expand the health care workforce to meet the
25 needs of Oregonians for health care.

26 **(d) The Health Care Workforce Committee may assist in the administration of the**
27 **Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative established under ORS 348.303 by issuing reports to**
28 **the Office of Rural Health that identify the categories of health care practitioners that are**
29 **most needed to serve at designated service sites.**

30 (4) Members of the committees described in subsections (2) and (3) of this section who are not
31 members of the Oregon Health Policy Board are not entitled to compensation but shall be reim-
32 bursed from funds available to the board for actual and necessary travel and other expenses in-
33 curred by them by their attendance at committee meetings, in the manner and amount provided in
34 ORS 292.495.

35 **SECTION 3.** ORS 442.480 is amended to read:

36 442.480. (1) There is established the Rural Health Care Revolving Account in the General Fund.

37 (2) All moneys appropriated for the purposes of ORS **348.303 and** 442.470 to 442.507 and all
38 moneys paid to the Office of Rural Health by reason of loans, fees, gifts or grants for the purposes
39 of ORS **348.303 and** 442.470 to 442.507 shall be credited to the Rural Health Care Revolving Ac-
40 count.

41 (3) All moneys contained in the Rural Health Care Revolving Account are continuously appro-
42 priated to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for the Office of Rural Health and
43 shall be used for the purposes of ORS **348.303 and** 442.470 to 442.507.

44 **SECTION 4. The amendments to ORS 348.303, 413.017 and 442.480 by sections 1 to 3 of this**
45 **2015 Act apply to all scholarships awarded, and reports required under ORS 348.303 (11), after**

1 **the effective date of this 2015 Act.**

2 **SECTION 5. This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
3 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect**
4 **on its passage.**

5
