

House Bill 2488

Sponsored by Representative BENTZ (at the request of Sergeant Dan Agenbroad) (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**.

Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to adopt rules prioritizing award of Oregon Promise program grants to persons serving in Oregon National Guard who have completed initial active duty training.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to prioritizing Oregon National Guard members in awarding Oregon Promise program
3 grants; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 341.522.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 341.522, as amended by section 1, chapter 75, Oregon Laws 2016, is amended
6 to read:

7 341.522. (1) The Office of Student Access and Completion shall administer the Oregon Promise
8 program as provided by this section.

9 (2) Subject to subsections (5) and (6) of this section, the office shall provide a waiver of tuition
10 for community college courses to a person who meets the criteria described in subsections (3) and
11 (4) of this section. The waiver shall be a grant and limited as provided by subsections (5) and (6)(a)
12 of this section.

13 (3) A grant shall be awarded under this section to a person who meets the following criteria:

14 (a) Is enrolled in courses that are:

15 (A) Offered at a community college in this state; and

16 (B) Determined by the office, in accordance with rules adopted by the Higher Education Coor-
17 dinating Commission, to be required for completion of:

18 (i) A one-year curriculum for students who plan to transfer to another post-secondary institution
19 of education;

20 (ii) An associate degree; or

21 (iii) A program in career and technical education;

22 (b) Has been a resident of this state for at least 12 months prior to enrolling in the courses
23 described in paragraph (a) of this subsection;

24 (c) Attained the person's highest level of education in this state prior to:

25 (A) Receiving a diploma under ORS 329.451;

26 (B) Receiving a General Educational Development (GED) certificate as provided by ORS 350.175;

27 (C) Completing grade 12 in compliance with the requirements of ORS 339.035; or

28 (D) Completing grade 12 at a private or parochial school, as described in ORS 339.030 (1)(a);

29 (d) **Except as provided in subsection (7) of this section**, attained the person's highest level
30 of education as described in paragraph (c) of this subsection within six months from the date that
31 the person first enrolls in courses described in paragraph (a) of this subsection for the purpose of

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 receiving a grant under this section;

2 (e) Earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better in high school or otherwise dem-
 3 onstrated an equivalent academic ability, as determined by the office according to rules adopted by
 4 the commission;

5 (f) Completed and submitted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for each academic
 6 year and accepted all state and federal aid grants available to the person, if eligible to file the ap-
 7 plication; and

8 (g) Has not completed either of the following:

9 (A) More than a total of 90 credit hours, or the equivalent, at a post-secondary institution of
 10 education; or

11 (B) A curriculum, degree or program, as described in paragraph (a)(B) of this subsection.

12 (4)(a) A person continues to remain eligible to receive a grant under this section if the person,
 13 in addition to satisfying the criteria specified in subsection (3) of this section, meets the following
 14 criteria:

15 (A) Maintains at least the minimum cumulative grade point average prescribed by the commis-
 16 sion based on federal aid grant requirements;

17 (B) Makes satisfactory academic progress toward a curriculum, degree or program, as described
 18 in subsection (3)(a)(B) of this section, as prescribed by the commission based on federal aid grant
 19 requirements;

20 (C) Enrolls in courses described in subsection (3)(a) of this section for a sufficient number of
 21 credit hours to be considered at least a half-time student each term for at least three terms in each
 22 consecutive academic year; and

23 (D) Completes a first-year experience, as identified by the community college and reported by
 24 the community college to the commission.

25 (b) A person who fails to meet an eligibility requirement described in paragraph (a) of this
 26 subsection becomes ineligible to receive a grant under this section for the term after which the
 27 person fails to meet the eligibility requirement, unless the eligibility requirement is waived by the
 28 office according to rules adopted by the commission.

29 (5)(a) The total amount of a grant awarded under this section shall be based on each term that
 30 a person is enrolled in courses described in subsection (3)(a) of this section. After the amount of
 31 tuition for the person for the term is reduced by \$50, to be paid by the person, and reduced by any
 32 amounts received by the person in state and federal aid grants, the person shall be eligible for a
 33 grant under this section in an amount that equals:

34 (A) Except as provided by paragraph (b) of this subsection, not less than the greater of:

35 (i) \$1,000; and

36 (ii) The person's actual cost for tuition.

37 (B) Not more than the lesser of:

38 (i) The average cost of tuition at a community college in this state, as determined by the office;
 39 and

40 (ii) The person's actual cost for tuition.

41 (b) The minimum amount of a grant, as calculated under paragraph (a) of this subsection, may
 42 be prorated for a person who is enrolled in courses described in subsection (3)(a) of this section for
 43 a sufficient number of credit hours to be considered at least a half-time student but not a full-time
 44 student.

45 (c) The commission may prescribe by rule whether to include fees, and any limitations related

1 to the inclusion of fees, when determining the actual cost of tuition or the average cost of tuition
 2 under this subsection.

3 (6)(a) The total amount in grants awarded under this section by the office may not exceed \$10
 4 million per fiscal year, or any lesser amount available to the office for the purpose of this section.

5 (b) **Subject to paragraph (c) of this subsection**, the commission may adopt by rule the pri-
 6 ority by which grants are awarded, which may allow for preference to be given to persons enrolled
 7 in school districts or high schools that meet specified criteria.

8 (c) **The commission shall adopt rules that prioritize awarding grants to persons serving**
 9 **in the Oregon National Guard who have completed initial active duty training.**

10 (7) **A member of the Oregon National Guard who qualifies for priority to receive a grant**
 11 **under subsection (6)(c) of this section is not required to comply with the criteria set forth**
 12 **in subsection (3)(d) of this section in order to receive a grant.**

13 [(7)] (8) The commission shall adopt any rules necessary for the administration of this section,
 14 including any requirements related to:

15 (a) Specifying the form and timelines for submitting an application for a grant under this section;

16 (b) Determining whether a person is eligible for a grant under this section, including whether
 17 the person shall be given priority as allowed under subsection (6)(b) or (c) of this section;

18 (c) Implementing programs or policies that improve the academic success or completion rates for
 19 persons who receive a grant under this section;

20 (d) Prescribing eligibility requirements and grant calculations for persons dually enrolled in a
 21 community college and a public university; and

22 (e) Evaluating the impact of the program established under this section, including any require-
 23 ments for reporting data needed for evaluations.

24 [(8)] (9) No later than December 31 of each even-numbered year, the commission shall submit
 25 to an interim legislative committee related to education a report that summarizes the commission's
 26 findings on the impact of the program established under this section. The report shall include:

27 (a) Student completion rates of curricula, degrees and programs described in subsection (3)(a)(B)
 28 of this section;

29 (b) The amount of federal aid grants received by persons who received a grant under this sec-
 30 tion;

31 (c) The financial impact of the program on school districts that had students receive a grant
 32 under this section;

33 (d) The financial impact and the enrollment impact of the program on community colleges and
 34 public universities in this state; and

35 (e) The overall success rate of the program and financial impact of the program.

36 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 341.522 by section 1 of this 2017 Act first apply to**
 37 **Oregon Promise program grants awarded for the 2018-2019 academic year.**