

House Bill 3345

Sponsored by Representative SOLLMAN; Representatives DOHERTY, HERNANDEZ, KENY-GUYER, PILUSO, REARDON, SALINAS, SCHOUTEN, Senators DEMBROW, HASS, ROBLAN, WAGNER

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**.

Excludes credits earned in accelerated college credit programs from applying when determining eligibility for receiving Oregon Promise program grant or renewal of grant.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to the Oregon Promise program; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 341.522.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 341.522 is amended to read:

5 341.522. (1) The Office of Student Access and Completion shall administer the Oregon Promise
6 program as provided by this section.

7 (2) Subject to subsections (7) to (10) of this section, the office shall provide a grant for commu-
8 nity college courses to a person who meets the criteria described in subsections (3) to (6) of this
9 section. The grant shall be limited as provided by subsections (7) to (10) of this section.

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

11 (a) Is enrolled in courses that are:

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

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

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

17 (ii) An associate degree; or

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

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

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

22 (A) Receiving a diploma under ORS 329.451;

23 (B) Receiving a certificate for passing an approved high school equivalency test such as the
24 General Educational Development (GED) test as provided by ORS 350.175;

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

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

27 (d) Except as provided in subsections (4) and (5) of this section, attained the person's highest
28 level of education as described in paragraph (c) of this subsection within six months from the date
29 that the person first enrolls in courses described in paragraph (a) of this subsection for the purpose
30 of receiving a grant under this section;

31 (e) Earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better in high school or otherwise dem-

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 onstrated an equivalent academic ability, as determined by the office according to rules adopted by
2 the commission;

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

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

7 (A) More than a total of 90 credit hours, or the equivalent, at a post-secondary institution of
8 education, **excluding any credit earned as part of an accelerated college credit program as**
9 **defined in ORS 340.300**; or

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

11 (4)(a) If a person otherwise meets the required criteria and has been awarded a grant under
12 subsection (3) of this section, but the person enters into service with a career and technical student
13 organization relating to agriculture or farming that is approved by the Department of Education
14 under ORS 344.077 within six months after the person attained the person's highest level of educa-
15 tion as described in subsection (3)(c) of this section, the person will continue to be eligible to receive
16 the grant if the person first enrolls in courses described in subsection (3)(a) of this section within
17 six months of finishing the person's service with the career and technical student organization.

18 (b) In addition to the situation described in paragraph (a) of this subsection, the commission may
19 waive the requirement set forth in subsection (3)(d) of this section for a person who shows that the
20 person was unable to timely enroll in courses described in subsection (3)(a) of this section due to a
21 significant hardship. The commission may adopt rules to implement this paragraph.

22 (5) A member of the Oregon National Guard who has completed initial active duty training is
23 not required to comply with the criteria set forth in subsection (3)(d) of this section in order to re-
24 ceive a grant, provided that the member first enrolls in courses described in subsection (3)(a) of this
25 section within six months after completing initial active duty training, as evidenced by an official
26 form issued by the United States Department of Defense.

27 (6)(a) A person continues to remain eligible to receive a grant under this section if the person,
28 in addition to satisfying the criteria specified in subsection (3) of this section, meets the following
29 criteria:

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

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

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

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

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

44 (7)(a) The total amount of a grant awarded under this section shall be based on each term that
45 a person is enrolled in courses described in subsection (3)(a) of this section. Except as provided in

1 subsections (9) and (10) of this section, after the amount of tuition for the person for the term is
 2 reduced by any amounts received by the person in state and federal aid grants, the person shall be
 3 eligible for a grant under this section in an amount that equals:

4 (A) Except as provided by paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection, not less than the greater
 5 of:

- 6 (i) \$1,000; and
- 7 (ii) The person's actual cost for tuition.

8 (B) Not more than the lesser of:

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

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

12 (b) The amount of a grant, as calculated under paragraph (a) of this subsection, shall be reduced
 13 by \$50 for each term that the person receives a grant under this section.

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

18 (d) The commission may prescribe by rule whether to include fees, and any limitations related
 19 to the inclusion of fees, when determining the actual cost of tuition or the average cost of tuition
 20 under this subsection.

21 (8) The commission may adopt by rule the priority by which grants are awarded, which may
 22 allow for preference to be given to persons enrolled in school districts or high schools that meet
 23 specified criteria.

24 (9) Prior to the start of the fall term of each academic year, the commission shall determine
 25 whether there are sufficient moneys to award a grant under this section to each person who meets
 26 the criteria described in subsections (3) to (6) of this section. On the basis of this determination the
 27 commission may:

28 (a) Limit eligibility to receive a grant under this section to a person whose family contribution,
 29 as determined by the commission by rule, is at or below the level the commission determines is
 30 necessary to allow the commission to operate the Oregon Promise program with available moneys;
 31 or

32 (b) Reduce or eliminate any limitation on eligibility previously imposed by the commission under
 33 paragraph (a) of this subsection.

34 (10)(a) If at any time the commission determines that there are insufficient moneys to provide
 35 a grant to each person who has been awarded a grant under this section, the commission may:

36 (A) Decrease the total amount of the grant awarded; or

37 (B) Increase the amount that a person must pay under subsection (7)(b) of this section for each
 38 term that the person receives a grant under this section.

39 (b) If at any time the commission determines that the amount of moneys available to operate the
 40 Oregon Promise program exceeds the amount determined under subsection (9) of this section, the
 41 commission may reduce or eliminate any limitation on eligibility to receive a grant under this sec-
 42 tion that was previously imposed by the commission under subsection (9)(a) of this section.

43 (c) The commission shall promptly notify the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly
 44 responsible for higher education each time the commission takes any action under paragraph (a) or
 45 (b) of this subsection.

1 (11) The commission shall adopt any rules necessary for the administration of this section, in-
2 cluding any requirements related to:

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

4 (b) Determining whether a person is eligible for a grant under this section, including whether
5 the person shall be given priority as allowed under subsection (8) of this section;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 341.522 by section 1 of this 2019 Act apply to**
25 **Oregon Promise program grants, or the renewal of Oregon Promise program grants, awarded**
26 **on or after the effective date of this 2019 Act.**

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