

House Bill 2361

Sponsored by Representative SALINAS (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**.

Prioritizes access to health care provider incentive program by behavioral health services providers serving Latino, Latina and Latinx individuals in Morrow, Malheur, Hood River and Umatilla counties.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to mental health care for underserved populations in rural counties; amending ORS 676.454;
3 and declaring an emergency.

4 Whereas a study by the Oregon Health Authority and the Department of Human Services
5 showed that the counties with the highest populations of Latinos are Morrow, Malheur, Hood River
6 and Umatilla counties, all rural counties; and

7 Whereas Morrow, Malheur, Hood River and Umatilla counties, despite having the largest popu-
8 lations of Latinos, are not indicated as mental health professional shortage areas even though
9 mental health treatment providers have very high caseloads; now, therefore,

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

11 **SECTION 1.** ORS 676.454 is amended to read:

12 676.454. (1) There is created in the Oregon Health Authority a health care provider incentive
13 program for the purpose of assisting qualified health care providers who commit to serving medical
14 assistance and Medicare enrollees in rural or medically underserved areas of this state. The au-
15 thority shall prescribe by rule:

16 (a) Participant eligibility criteria, including the types of qualified health care providers who may
17 participate in the program;

18 (b) The terms and conditions of participation in the program, including the duration of the term
19 of any service agreement, which must be at least 12 months;

20 (c) The types of incentives that may be provided, including but not limited to:

21 (A) Loan repayment subsidies;

22 (B) Stipends;

23 (C) Medical malpractice insurance premium subsidies;

24 (D) Scholarships for students in health professional training programs at the Oregon Health and
25 Science University;

26 (E) Scholarships for students at institutions of higher education based in this state who are en-
27 rolled in health professional training programs leading to a doctor of osteopathic medicine or doctor
28 of dentistry or a license as a nurse practitioner, physician assistant or certified registered nurse
29 anesthetist, if:

30 (i) The scholarship funds are distributed equitably among schools offering the training programs,
31 based on the percentage of Oregon students attending those schools; and

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 (ii) The maximum scholarship for each student does not exceed the highest resident tuition rate
2 at the publicly funded health professional training programs in this state; and

3 (F) Paying the moving expenses of providers not located in rural or medically underserved areas
4 who commit to relocate to such areas;

5 (d) If the funds allocated to the program from the Health Care Provider Incentive Fund estab-
6 lished under ORS 676.450 are insufficient to provide assistance to all of the applicants who are eli-
7 gible to participate in the program, the priority for the distribution of funds; and

8 (e) The financial penalties imposed on an individual who fails to comply with terms and condi-
9 tions of participation.

10 (2) Eligibility requirements adopted for the program:

11 (a) Must allow providers to qualify for multiple health care provider incentives, to the extent
12 permitted by federal law.

13 (b) Must allow providers to qualify for an incentive for multiyear periods.

14 (c) Must give preference to applicants willing to:

15 (A) Commit to extended periods of service in rural or medically underserved areas; *[or]*

16 (B) Serve patients enrolled in Medicare and the state medical assistance program in at least the
17 same proportion to the provider's total number of patients as the Medicare and medical assistance
18 patient populations represent in relation to the total number of persons determined by the Office
19 of Rural Health to be in need of health care in the area served by the practice; **or**

20 **(C) Provide behavioral health services to Latino, Latina and Latinx individuals living in**
21 **Morrow, Malheur, Hood River and Umatilla counties.**

22 (3) The authority may use funds allocated to the program from the Health Care Provider In-
23 centive Fund to administer or provide funding to a locum tenens program for health care providers
24 practicing in rural areas of this state.

25 (4) The authority may enter into contracts with one or more public or private entities to ad-
26 minister the health care provider incentive program or parts of the program.

27 (5) The authority shall decide no later than September 1 of each academic year the distribution
28 of funds for scholarships that will be provided in the next academic year.

29 (6) The authority may receive gifts, grants or contributions from any source, whether public or
30 private, to carry out the provisions of this section. Moneys received under this subsection shall be
31 deposited in the Health Care Provider Incentive Fund established under ORS 676.450.

32 **SECTION 2. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
33 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect**
34 **on its passage.**

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