

## HB 2471 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Higher Education

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**Prepared By:** Ellen O'Brien, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/28, 3/30

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) to conduct study to revise repayment process for individuals who receive scholarship under Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative and do not fulfill required service agreement. Requires OHSU to submit report to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2024.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Role of Oregon Department of Revenue as collections agency
- Changes in life circumstances preventing fulfillment of service agreement
- Issues emerging as SHOI participants begin graduating

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

#### BACKGROUND:

The [Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative](#) (SHOI) was created by Senate Bill 2 (2013) and is administered by Oregon Health and Science University. The program provides a scholarship to students starting in their first year of education that covers the entire cost of tuition and fees. Upon completion of their degree, residency, or training, the participant is required to practice in their health care field at a rural health clinic, rural critical access hospital, federally qualified health center, or in a federally-designated health professional shortage area, medically underserved area, or medically underserved population. This service agreement lasts for the length of their scholarship plus one year, e.g. a student who receives a scholarship for two years must serve at a designated site for three years. Participants who fail to complete the terms of this service agreement are required to repay the scholarship amount they received plus a 25 percent penalty, with the total amount prorated based on the length of service completed. Participants who fail to complete their degree are also required to repay the scholarship amount received, but do not pay a penalty.

House Bill 2471 requires Oregon Health and Science University to study possible revisions to the repayment process for individuals who receive a scholarship under the Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative and do not fulfill the required service agreement, and to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2024.