

House Bill 2672

Sponsored by Representative KROPF (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**.

Establishes Public Law School Tuition Forgiveness program. Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to forgive law school student loans of individuals who graduated from public law school in this state and subsequently worked for at least five years as public defense attorney, deputy district attorney or city prosecutor. First applies to students who graduate from public law school in Oregon on or after effective date of Act.

Establishes Public Law School Tuition Forgiveness Fund to fund program.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to law school student loans.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Public Law School Tuition Forgiveness program is established within**
5 **the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.**

6 **(2) The commission shall use moneys from the Public Law School Tuition Forgiveness**
7 **Fund established in section 2 of this 2023 Act to provide student loan forgiveness to each**
8 **qualified attorney. The student loan forgiveness provided under this section:**

9 **(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, shall equal the total amount**
10 **of student loans currently held by the qualified attorney that originated when the attorney**
11 **was enrolled at a public law school in this state.**

12 **(b) May not exceed three years of the total amount of full-time tuition charged by the**
13 **public law school.**

14 **(3) The commission may adopt any rules necessary to implement the provisions of this**
15 **section, including but not limited to altering the amount of award calculations set forth in**
16 **subsection (2) of this section, if the commission determines that there are insufficient mon-**
17 **neys to make awards to all qualified attorneys under this section.**

18 **(4) As used in this section:**

19 **(a) "Public defense attorney" means an attorney:**

20 **(A) Who is employed on a full-time basis; and**

21 **(B) Whose practice is focused exclusively on providing public defense services.**

22 **(b) "Qualified attorney" means an individual who:**

23 **(A) Graduated from a public law school based in this state;**

24 **(B) Spent five or more years as:**

25 **(i) A public defense attorney;**

26 **(ii) A deputy district attorney; or**

27 **(iii) A city prosecutor;**

28 **(C) Began working as a public defense attorney, deputy district attorney or city**
29 **prosecutor no more than six months after graduating from a public law school based in this**

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 state; and

2 (D) Is a member in good standing with the Oregon State Bar.

3 **SECTION 2.** (1) The Public Law School Tuition Forgiveness Fund is established in the
4 State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Public
5 Law School Tuition Forgiveness Fund shall be credited to the fund.

6 (2) Moneys in the Public Law School Tuition Forgiveness Fund shall consist of:

7 (a) Amounts donated to the fund from individuals, private organizations and organiza-
8 tions representing or affiliated with tribes as defined in ORS 182.162;

9 (b) Amounts appropriated or otherwise transferred to the fund by the Legislative As-
10 ssembly; and

11 (c) Interest earned by the fund.

12 (3) Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Higher Education Coordi-
13 nating Commission for the purpose of forgiving student loans in the manner established un-
14 der section 2 of this 2023 Act, and for related administrative expenses of the commission.

15 (4) The commission shall keep records of:

16 (a) All moneys credited to and deposited in the Public Law School Tuition Forgiveness
17 Fund; and

18 (b) The use of any moneys withdrawn from the Public Law School Tuition Forgiveness
19 Fund.

20 **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this 2023 Act first applies to students who graduate from a
21 public law school in this state on or after the effective date of this 2023 Act.

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