

House Bill 2773

Sponsored by Representative RUIZ, Senator PATTERSON; Representative REYNOLDS, Senators CAMPOS, DEMBROW, GELSER BLOUIN (Presession 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 Oregon Health Authority to provide incentives to increase recruitment and retention of local public health professionals.

Directs authority to provide grants to local public health agencies that provide interns and fellows with training in, and clinical supervision of, nursing duties performed in local public health agencies.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to opportunities for local public health professionals; and prescribing an effective date.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Local Public Health Incentive Fund is established in the State**
5 **Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Local Public**
6 **Health Incentive Fund shall be credited to the fund. The Local Public Health Incentive Fund**
7 **consists of moneys appropriated to the fund by the Legislative Assembly, grants, donations,**
8 **contributions or gifts received from public or private sources under subsection (2) of this**
9 **section and interest earned upon moneys in the fund.**

10 **(2) The Oregon Health Authority may accept grants, donations, contributions or gifts**
11 **from any public or private source for deposit in the fund.**

12 **(3) Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the authority for carrying out**
13 **the provisions of section 2 of this 2023 Act.**

14 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section, "local public health agency" means:**

15 **(a) A health district formed under ORS 431.443;**

16 **(b) An intergovernmental entity that provides public health services pursuant to an**
17 **agreement entered into under ORS 190.010; or**

18 **(c) A nongovernmental entity that has contracted with a county government to provide**
19 **public health services pursuant to ORS 431.413.**

20 **(2) The Oregon Health Authority shall provide incentives to increase the recruitment and**
21 **retention of professionals in the local public health workforce who have associate, bachelor's,**
22 **master's or doctoral degrees or other credentials, who are people of color, tribal members**
23 **or residents of rural areas in this state and who can provide culturally responsive health**
24 **services at local public health agencies that serve underserved populations and communities**
25 **that include:**

26 **(a) Tribal members;**

27 **(b) People of color;**

28 **(c) Individuals who identify as members of the LGBTQ+ community;**

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 (d) Veterans;
- 2 (e) Persons with disabilities; and
- 3 (f) Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

4 (3) The authority shall increase access to services for rural and underserved communi-
5 ties by:

6 (a) Expanding funding to provide incentives to traditional health workers, unlicensed and
7 licensed public health providers and other local public health professionals who are culturally
8 competent.

9 (b) Developing programs and providing incentives to increase the number of individuals
10 training for and entering an occupation in the field of public health and to improve the re-
11 tention of the local public health workforce in this state through:

12 (A) Scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students who are pursuing a program
13 or course of study that focuses on public health;

14 (B) Student loan forgiveness and repayment assistance;

15 (C) Housing assistance;

16 (D) Sign-on bonuses;

17 (E) Flextime and part-time opportunities;

18 (F) Retention bonuses;

19 (G) Professional development;

20 (H) Tax subsidies;

21 (I) Child care subsidies;

22 (J) Tuition assistance;

23 (K) Bonuses and stipends for supervisors of interns or fellows;

24 (L) Financial assistance for licensing examination fees and costs of examination prepa-
25 ration courses;

26 (M) Living stipends for students enrolled at an institution of higher education in a pro-
27 gram or course of study that focuses on public health; and

28 (N) Credit counseling services.

29 (4) The authority shall develop a program to award local public health professionals stu-
30 dent loan forgiveness or student loan repayment assistance based on criteria, including ten-
31 ure or the completion of a commitment of service at a local public health agency, as
32 prescribed by the authority by rule.

33 (5) The authority may adopt rules to carry out this section.

34 **SECTION 3.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
35 ated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the
36 General Fund, the amount of \$40,000,000 for deposit in the Local Public Health Incentive
37 Fund established under section 1 of this 2023 Act.

38 **SECTION 4.** (1) As used in this section, "local public health agency" has the meaning
39 given that term in section 2 of this 2023 Act.

40 (2) The Oregon Health Authority shall establish a program to provide grants to local
41 public health agencies that provide interns and fellows with opportunities to receive training
42 in, and clinical supervision of, nursing duties performed in a local public health agency.

43 (3) The authority shall adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this section.

44 **SECTION 5.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
45 ated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the

1 **General Fund, the amount of \$7,000,000 for carrying out the provisions of section 4 of this**
2 **2023 Act.**

3 **SECTION 6. This 2023 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2023**
4 **regular session of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.**

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