

## HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 2961

By COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

April 10

1 After line 2 of the printed bill, insert:

2 “Whereas Oregonians need access to educational opportunities beyond high school and  
3 throughout life; and

4 “Whereas the Legislative Assembly has found that Oregonians need to cultivate an advanced  
5 literacy essential to leading productive and rewarding lives, including the capacity to think logically  
6 and critically; to internalize and exemplify humane values; to write, speak and figure clearly and  
7 accurately; to understand, in some depth, a variety of psychological, historical, cultural, aesthetic  
8 and scientific concepts and theories; and to master a range of occupational, professional,  
9 avocational, social and personal skills; and

10 “Whereas the State of Oregon has adopted ambitious educational goals wherein, by the year  
11 2025, 100 percent of Oregon students will graduate from high school, with at least 40 percent earn-  
12 ing an associate’s degree or certificate, another 40 percent earning a baccalaureate degree or higher  
13 and another 20 percent entering the workforce; and

14 “Whereas performance on key student outcomes and outcomes for historically underserved  
15 populations must improve rapidly for this state to meet the 40-40-20 goal; and

16 “Whereas in 2018 the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly established a Joint Committee on  
17 Student Success to create a plan to improve educational outcomes for K-12 students throughout  
18 Oregon; and

19 “Whereas in 2019 the Eightieth Legislative Assembly passed the Student Success Act to meet  
20 specific K-12 student needs, including physical health and safety, mental or behavioral health, in-  
21 creased instructional time, reduced class sizes or staff case loads, and the need to broaden curric-  
22 ular opportunities; and

23 “Whereas in 2019 the Eightieth Legislative Assembly established the Fund for Student Success  
24 to receive net revenues from a corporate activity tax; and

25 “Whereas in 2021 the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly established the bicameral, bipartisan  
26 Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education to develop stu-  
27 dent success policy and funding proposals focused on increasing the likelihood of student success in  
28 higher education for students who have been historically underrepresented; and

29 “Whereas the task force found that there is a strong relationship between affordability and  
30 completion, with students more likely to graduate in less time when the cost of attendance is more  
31 affordable; and

32 “Whereas the task force found that the high costs of housing, child care, transportation and  
33 Internet access are additional affordability challenges faced by underrepresented students; and

34 “Whereas the task force found that combined state and federal grant aid for a student at the  
35 lowest income level is insufficient to meet the full cost of attendance at many public institutions of

1 higher education in Oregon; now, therefore,”.

2 Delete lines 4 through 11 and insert:

3 **“SECTION 1. The Legislative Assembly finds that:**

4 **“(1) Oregon should expand need-based financial aid opportunities.**

5 **“(2) The Legislative Assembly should enact policies and appropriate sufficient moneys to**  
6 **ensure that historically underrepresented students at post-secondary institutions of educa-**  
7 **tion have increased access to wraparound services and support programs that have been**  
8 **demonstrated to promote positive outcomes.**

9 **“(3) The state’s academic and student support services must receive greater levels of**  
10 **targeted state investment that result in increased student service levels.**

11 **“SECTION 2. Section 3 of this 2023 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 348.**

12 **“SECTION 3. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall regularly:**

13 **“(1) Evaluate rules adopted by the commission that impact how the commission distrib-**  
14 **utes or awards grants or financial aid to students enrolled in post-secondary institutions of**  
15 **education; and**

16 **“(2) To the degree permitted by law, amend rules described in subsection (1) of this sec-**  
17 **tion in order ensure that the enrollment needs of adult Oregonians who are currently in the**  
18 **professional workforce are being met in an equitable manner.**

19 **“SECTION 4. (1) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall by rule establish**  
20 **a program to enable post-secondary institutions of education to provide current high school**  
21 **students with services and outreach to:**

22 **“(a) Assist students in transitioning from high school to post-secondary institutions of**  
23 **education; and**

24 **“(b) Assist students who desire to attend a post-secondary institution of education iden-**  
25 **tify and utilize available resources, including but not limited to financial resources.**

26 **“(2) The commission shall publicize and make access to the program available to all**  
27 **post-secondary institutions of education based in this state.**

28 **“SECTION 5. (1) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall by rule establish**  
29 **and administer a block grant program.**

30 **“(2) The program must:**

31 **“(a) Allow any public institution of higher education to apply for a block grant for any**  
32 **program desired by the institution, including but not limited to:**

33 **“(A) Programs that assist first-generation or historically underserved students;**

34 **“(B) Programs that provide academic coaching or mentoring;**

35 **“(C) Programs that develop career pathways;**

36 **“(D) Programs that provide Adult Basic Education (ABE);**

37 **“(E) Programs that result in a student earning a General Educational Development**  
38 **(GED) certificate; or**

39 **“(F) Programs that provide English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL); and**

40 **“(b) Develop metrics for how the commission will evaluate applications for block grants**  
41 **under paragraph (a) of this subsection.**

42 **“(3) The commission shall adopt any rules necessary for the administration of this sec-**  
43 **tion, including but not limited to any requirements related to:**

44 **“(a) Specifying the form and timelines for submitting an application for a block grant**  
45 **under this section;**

1 “(b) Establishing selection criteria that can be used to determine which applicants are  
2 awarded grants; and

3 “(c) Prescribing grant calculations programs.

4 “(4) As used in this section, ‘public institution of higher education’ has the meaning given  
5 that term in ORS 350.260.

6 “**SECTION 6.** (1) The Department of Early Learning and Care shall conduct a compre-  
7 hensive review of both the Oregon Student Child Care Grant Program administered by the  
8 Higher Education Coordinating Commission and child care centers located at post-secondary  
9 institutions of education in this state in order to determine the combination of direct student  
10 support and state grants that would best meet the needs of the greatest number of student  
11 parents enrolled at post-secondary institutions of education in this state.

12 “(2) The department shall submit, in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, a report that  
13 describes the review conducted and determinations reached under subsection (1) of this sec-  
14 tion, and may include recommendations for legislation, to the interim committees of the  
15 Legislative Assembly related to higher education no later than September 15, 2024.

16 “**SECTION 7.** Section 6 of this 2023 Act is repealed on January 2, 2025.

17 “**SECTION 8.** (1) As used in this section:

18 “(a) ‘Public institution of higher education’ has the meaning given that term in ORS  
19 350.260.

20 “(b) ‘Student support offices’ means, for each public institution of higher education:

21 “(A) The office responsible for student financial aid;

22 “(B) The office or offices responsible for undergraduate student advising and counseling;

23 “(C) The office responsible for course registration;

24 “(D) The office responsible for student housing; and

25 “(E) The office responsible for student financial advising.

26 “(2) Each public institution of higher education shall:

27 “(a) Internally develop an integrated network that includes all student support offices;  
28 and

29 “(b) Provide each student enrolled at the institution with a liaison who is responsible for  
30 helping the student successfully navigate and utilize the integrated network of student sup-  
31 port offices.

32 “**SECTION 9.** (1) Notwithstanding ORS 348.205, 348.250 or 348.260, the Higher Education  
33 Coordinating Commission may provide Oregon Opportunity Grant awards that are in excess  
34 of the maximum Oregon Opportunity Grant amount established under ORS 348.205 to low-  
35 income qualified students who either receive federal Pell grants or federal Supplemental  
36 Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

37 “(2) As used in this section, ‘qualified student’ has the meaning given that term in ORS  
38 348.180.

39 “**SECTION 10.** Section 9 of this 2023 Act is repealed on June 30, 2025.

40 “**SECTION 11.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appro-  
41 priated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for the biennium beginning July  
42 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$\_\_\_\_, for the purpose of providing enhanced  
43 Oregon Opportunity Grants in the manner described in section 9 of this 2023 Act.

44 “**SECTION 12.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appro-  
45 priated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for the biennium beginning July

1 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$\_\_\_\_, for allocation to public post-secondary  
2 institutions of education for the purpose of providing grants to keep students enrolled  
3 through one-time or transitory emergency situations.

4 “SECTION 13. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appro-  
5 priated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for the biennium beginning July  
6 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$\_\_\_\_, for allocation to Oregon TRIO Asso-  
7 ciation, the Future Connect scholarship and support program at Portland Community College  
8 and the Educational Opportunities Program at Oregon State University.

9 “SECTION 14. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appro-  
10 priated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for the biennium beginning July  
11 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$\_\_\_\_, for the purpose of implementing the  
12 legislative findings described in section 1 of this 2023 Act.

13 “SECTION 15. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appro-  
14 priated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for the biennium beginning July  
15 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$\_\_\_\_, for the purpose of providing block  
16 grants to public institutions of higher education in the manner described in section 5 of this  
17 2023 Act.

18 “SECTION 16. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
19 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect  
20 July 1, 2023.”  
21 \_\_\_\_\_