

A-Engrossed
House Bill 2979

Ordered by the House March 24
Including House Amendments dated March 24

Sponsored by Representatives PHAM H, JAVADI, NOSSE, BYNUM, Senator CAMPOS; Senator PATTERSON (at the request of Oregon Dental Association) (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.

Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission to establish program to issue grants to community colleges to promote and increase dental assistant and dental hygienist training programs in Oregon.

Directs Department of Education to establish program to issue grants to school districts or education service districts to promote and increase career and technical education related to dental health professions.

Directs Oregon Health Authority to issue grants through health care provider incentive program to support and increase recruitment and retention of dental professionals.

Directs authority to develop and implement education and mentoring program to promote entry into dental professions by members of **federally recognized** Indian tribes in Oregon.

[Directs State Workforce and Talent Development Board to develop educational module relating to dental assisting.]

Directs commission to develop and maintain website to provide information about dental assistant training and certification.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to dental professions.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall establish a program**
5 **to issue grants to community colleges, as defined in ORS 341.005, to promote and increase**
6 **dental assistant and dental hygienist training programs in Oregon. Community colleges may**
7 **use grant moneys awarded under this section to support, expand, increase enrollment in,**
8 **provide scholarships for and market dental assistant or dental hygienist training programs.**

9 **(2) Community colleges may apply to the commission for grants. An application must**
10 **contain a statement of the community college's plan for the grant, if awarded, and any other**
11 **information required by rule of the commission.**

12 **(3) Before August 1 of each year, and subject to the availability of funding, the commis-**
13 **sion shall award grants to applicants whose applications meet all requirements specified by**
14 **the commission, in order of receipt of applications.**

15 **(4) The commission shall adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this section, including**
16 **specifying the required form and contents of an application for a grant under this section.**

17 **SECTION 2. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**
18 **ated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for the biennium beginning July 1,**
19 **2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$5,000,000 to carry out the provisions of section**
20 **1 of this 2023 Act.**

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 **SECTION 3.** (1) The Department of Education shall establish a program to issue grants
2 to school districts or education service districts to promote and increase career and techni-
3 cal education related to dental health professions.

4 (2) Districts may apply to the department for grants. An application must contain a
5 statement of the district's plan for the grant, if awarded, and any other information required
6 by rule of the department.

7 (3) Before August 1 of each year, and subject to the availability of funding, the depart-
8 ment shall award grants to applicants whose applications meet all requirements specified by
9 the department, in order of receipt of applications.

10 (4) The department may retain, from any disbursement made to the department for the
11 purposes of carrying out the provisions of this section, an amount necessary to cover costs
12 incurred by the department in administering the grant program described in this section.
13 Administration costs may include, but are not limited to, any outreach conducted by the
14 department and personnel necessary to administer the grant program.

15 (5) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this
16 section, including specifying the required form and contents of an application for a grant
17 under this section.

18 **SECTION 4.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
19 ated to the Department of Education, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the
20 General Fund, the amount of \$5,000,000 to carry out the provisions of section 3 of this 2023
21 Act.

22 **SECTION 5.** (1) As used in this section, "dental professional" includes dentists, dental
23 hygienists, dental assistants, dental therapists and dental health aides.

24 (2) The Oregon Health Authority shall, through the health care provider incentive pro-
25 gram created under ORS 676.454 and in consultation with the Office of Rural Health, issue
26 grants to support and increase the recruitment and retention of dental professionals in all
27 regions of this state. The authority may issue grants to dental professionals, and to federally
28 qualified health centers and other employers of dental professionals, that provide dental care
29 in underserved areas of this state.

30 (3) In issuing grants under this section, the authority shall prioritize recruitment and
31 retention of dental professionals in rural areas, low-income communities and tribal commu-
32 nities.

33 **SECTION 6.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
34 ated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the
35 General Fund, the amount of \$7,000,000 to carry out the provisions of section 5 of this 2023
36 Act.

37 **SECTION 7.** (1) The Oregon Health Authority shall develop and implement an education
38 and mentoring program to promote the entry into dental professions by members of federally
39 recognized Indian tribes in Oregon.

40 (2) The authority may carry out its duty under this section by entering into an agree-
41 ment with a federally recognized Indian tribe in this state or a tribal organization, as defined
42 in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (P.L. 93-638), in this
43 state to develop and implement the program described in subsection (1) of this section.

44 **SECTION 8.** 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 \$1,000,000 to carry out the provisions of section 7 of this 2023
2 Act.

3 **SECTION 9.** (1) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall develop and main-
4 tain a website to provide information about dental assistant training and certification, in-
5 cluding information about eligibility requirements and other requirements of the Oregon
6 Board of Dentistry, required core education competencies and a list of existing resources for
7 dental assistant training programs and education modules. The website must be available
8 free of cost to all dentists licensed to practice in this state.

9 (2) The commission shall convene, and facilitate discussion among, relevant stakeholders
10 in developing and maintaining the website described in subsection (1) of this section. The
11 stakeholders may include, but are not limited to, representatives of dental assistant educa-
12 tion programs at community colleges in this state and dental professional associations.

13 (3) The commission, in consultation with the stakeholders described in subsection (2) of
14 this section:

15 (a) Shall provide financial assistance to individuals seeking access to existing online
16 dental assistant training materials and resources; and

17 (b) May develop additional dental assistant training materials as the commission deter-
18 mines necessary.

19 (4) The commission may adopt rules to carry out this section.

20 **SECTION 10.** There is appropriated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission,
21 for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$2,000,000
22 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of section 9 of this 2023 Act.

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