

# House Bill 3561

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION (at the request of Higher Education Coordinating Commission)

## 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**.

Specifies that term "early childhood care and education" includes early childhood behavioral and mental health services for purposes of scholarships and grants awarded to ensure state has adequate supply of early childhood care and education professionals.

Requires person to accept state and federal aid grants, institutional aid grants and scholarships made available to person to be eligible to receive scholarship. Allows for award methodology that takes into consideration other financial assistance person has received.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to scholarships for early childhood professionals; amending ORS 329.181; and declaring an  
3 emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 329.181 is amended to read:

6 329.181. (1) **As used in this section, "early childhood care and education" includes early**  
7 **childhood behavioral and mental health services.**

8 [(1)] (2) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission and the Early Learning Division shall  
9 jointly administer a scholarship program and a grant program designed to ensure that there is an  
10 adequate supply of highly qualified early childhood care and education professionals in this state.

11 [(2)] (3) The commission and division shall collaborate to approve degree programs for which a  
12 scholarship may be awarded under this section.

13 [(3)] (4) A person is eligible to receive a scholarship under this section if the person:

14 (a) Enrolls in a program approved under subsection [(2)] (3) of this section;

15 (b) Enrolls in a minimum of six credits, or the equivalent, per term; [and]

16 (c) Files a Free Application for Federal Student Aid or the state equivalent[.]; **and**

17 **(d) Accepts all state and federal aid grants, institutional aid grants and scholarships**  
18 **made available to the person.**

19 [(4)] (5) A person remains eligible to receive a scholarship under this section if the person:

20 (a) Remains in good academic standing; and

21 (b) Has not received the scholarship for the equivalent of four years of full-time study.

22 [(5)] (6) The commission and division may prioritize a person currently employed in a position  
23 in the field of early childhood care [or] **and** education for receiving a scholarship under this section.

24 [(6)] (7) An institution of higher education may receive a one-time grant under this section to  
25 develop high-quality degree programs for early childhood care and education professionals.

26 [(7)] (8) The Early Learning Council and the commission may adopt rules necessary to imple-  
27 ment the scholarship program and grant program administered as provided by this section. Rules  
28 may provide for:

**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 (a) The reduction of the costs of the programs in the event amounts requested under the pro-  
2 grams exceed amounts available for the programs.

3 (b) **An award methodology for scholarships that takes into consideration state and fed-  
4 eral aid grants, institutional aid grants and scholarships received by a person.**

5 **SECTION 2.** ORS 329.181, as amended by section 28, chapter 631, Oregon Laws 2021, is  
6 amended to read:

7 329.181. (1) **As used in this section, “early childhood care and education” includes early  
8 childhood behavioral and mental health services.**

9 [(1)] (2) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission and the Department of Early Learning  
10 and Care shall jointly administer a scholarship program and a grant program designed to ensure  
11 that there is an adequate supply of highly qualified early childhood care and education professionals  
12 in this state.

13 [(2)] (3) The commission and department shall collaborate to approve degree programs for which  
14 a scholarship may be awarded under this section.

15 [(3)] (4) A person is eligible to receive a scholarship under this section if the person:

16 (a) Enrolls in a program approved under subsection [(2)] (3) of this section;

17 (b) Enrolls in a minimum of six credits, or the equivalent, per term; *[and]*

18 (c) Files a Free Application for Federal Student Aid or the state equivalent[.]; **and**

19 (d) **Accepts all state and federal aid grants, institutional aid grants and scholarships  
20 made available to the person.**

21 [(4)] (5) A person remains eligible to receive a scholarship under this section if the person:

22 (a) Remains in good academic standing; and

23 (b) Has not received the scholarship for the equivalent of four years of full-time study.

24 [(5)] (6) The commission and department may prioritize a person currently employed in a posi-  
25 tion in the field of early childhood care *[or]* **and** education for receiving a scholarship under this  
26 section.

27 [(6)] (7) An institution of higher education may receive a one-time grant under this section to  
28 develop high-quality degree programs for early childhood care and education professionals.

29 [(7)] (8) The Early Learning Council and the commission may adopt rules necessary to imple-  
30 ment the scholarship program and grant program administered as provided by this section. Rules  
31 may provide for:

32 (a) The reduction of the costs of the programs in the event amounts requested under the pro-  
33 grams exceed amounts available for the programs.

34 (b) **An award methodology for scholarships that takes into consideration state and fed-  
35 eral aid grants, institutional aid grants and scholarships received by a person.**

36 **SECTION 3. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
37 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect  
38 on its passage.**