

**Enrolled**  
**House Bill 3563**

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

CHAPTER .....

AN ACT

Relating to youth workforce development programs; creating new provisions; amending ORS 418.653, 418.657, 418.658, 418.660, 476.696 and 476.698; and prescribing an effective date.

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

**SECTION 1. (1) There is created in the Higher Education Coordinating Commission the Oregon Youth Works Advisory Board. The purpose of the advisory board is to provide advice on and oversight of the implementation and alignment of youth workforce development programs for which the commission is responsible, including but not limited to:**

- (a) The Oregon Youth Corps created under ORS 418.653;**
- (b) The Oregon Conservation Corps Program established under ORS 476.694; and**
- (c) The Oregon Youth Employment Program created under ORS 660.353.**

**(2) The Governor, in consultation with the commission, shall determine the number of members on the advisory board. In determining the number of members on the advisory board, the Governor shall ensure that membership consists of at least seven but not more than 12 members.**

**(3) The Governor shall appoint the members of the advisory board. The members must be residents of this state who reflect the geographic, racial, ethnic and gender diversity of this state and who have necessary experience that will enable the advisory board to meaningfully advise the commission on topics including, but not limited to:**

**(a) Career-connected learning that provides learners with career awareness, exploration, preparation and training in connection with professional and industry-based expectations;**

- (b) Development of career pathways;**
- (c) Youth education programs;**
- (d) Workforce development programs;**
- (e) Rural workforce needs; and**
- (f) Workforce issues affecting underrepresented communities.**

**(4) The advisory board must include representation from:**

- (a) The forestry or wildfire sector;**
- (b) The natural resources sector;**
- (c) Workforce sectors that are experiencing workforce demands;**

**(d) Communities in which the wildland-urban interface faces a high risk of wildfire exposure;**

(e) Underrepresented communities, including communities of color, rural communities and communities that have faced generational poverty or other communities that have been historically underrepresented in youth employment as determined by the commission by rule;

(f) Tribal communities; and

(g) Local workforce development boards.

(5) Members of the advisory board serve for a term of four years at the pleasure of the Governor.

(6) Members may not receive compensation for service on the advisory board, but, subject to any applicable laws regulating travel and other expenses of state officers and employees, may be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel and other expenses incurred in the performance of official duties, as provided in ORS 292.495, with moneys available to the advisory board for the purpose of reimbursing members.

(7) The commission shall provide the advisory board with necessary staff support.

**SECTION 2.** ORS 418.653 is amended to read:

418.653. [(1)] Subject to the availability of funds, there is created within the Oregon Youth Employment Program established under ORS 660.353 an Oregon Youth Corps that shall provide emergency services, public conservation, rehabilitation and improvement programs. The corps shall be headed by a program director, and shall be administered through the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. **The program director shall operate the corps in consultation with the Oregon Youth Works Advisory Board created under section 1 of this 2023 Act.**

[(2) Upon implementation of subsection (1) of this section, there shall be created an Oregon Youth Corps Advisory Board to consist of nine members, three to be appointed by the President of the Senate, three to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and three public members to be appointed by the Governor. No more than one Senator and one Representative shall be appointed.]

[(3) Board members may receive reimbursement of necessary and actual expenses under ORS 292.495 (2), but may not receive compensation under ORS 292.495 (1) or otherwise for participation as a board member.]

[(4) Board members may be removed by the appointing authority. Vacancies shall be filled by the appointing authority. Board members shall serve for a term of three years and may be reappointed for an additional consecutive term.]

[(5) The advisory board established under subsection (2) of this section shall advise the program director on the implementation of ORS 418.650 to 418.663.]

**SECTION 3.** ORS 418.657 is amended to read:

418.657. (1) In consultation with the Oregon Youth [Corps] **Works** Advisory Board **created under section 1 of this 2023 Act** and the executive director of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, or the designee of the executive director, the program director of the Oregon Youth Corps shall:

(a) Establish eligibility criteria for participants. Such criteria shall not render the program ineligible for federal funds. Participants shall be lawful permanent residents of this state.

(b) Establish criteria in order to make the required determination that enrollment in the corps was not the reason that an individual ceased attendance at a secondary school.

(c) Assume that application of the eligibility and participation criteria results in enrollment of at least 75 percent disadvantaged and at-risk youth among the total number of participants.

(2) The program director, in consultation with the executive director, or the designee of the executive director, may take the following actions, including but not limited to:

(a) Applying for and accepting grants or contributions of funds from any public or private source;

(b) Making agreements or entering into contracts or other agreements with any local, state or federal agency, or with any private or public organization or tribal government, to utilize, pay for or support any service, material or property of any such entity, where such agreements are considered reasonable and necessary; and

(c) Purchasing, contracting or making payment for necessary services, awards, equipment, materials and property where such are needed to carry out the projects approved for and undertaken by the corps.

(3) The commission may adopt all necessary rules to carry out the purposes and objectives of the program and to regulate the standards of conduct and other operating guidelines for corps members and other personnel.

(4) Corps members are exempt from:

- (a) State Personnel Relations Law; and
- (b) ORS 279C.800 to 279C.870.

**SECTION 4.** ORS 418.658 is amended to read:

418.658. (1) The program director of the Oregon Youth Corps shall establish within the Oregon Youth Employment Program established under ORS 660.353 a separate program known as the Oregon Community Stewardship Corps. In addition to the established purposes of the Oregon Youth Corps, the purpose of the Oregon Community Stewardship Corps is to promote community service activities throughout the state for a broad cross section of Oregon disadvantaged and at-risk youth through programs that also include appropriate educational and job training opportunities for participants.

(2) In addition to projects submitted under ORS 418.660 (1), projects of the Oregon Community Stewardship Corps may include, but shall not be limited to:

- (a) Child care services.
- (b) Elderly and disabled care services.
- (c) Literacy education programs.
- (d) Recycling and other waste reduction services.

(3) The Oregon Community Stewardship Corps shall offer employment and educational opportunities of at least three but not more than 12 months' duration for selected participants.

(4) Under rules adopted by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, participants who successfully complete any program under this section shall be eligible for up to \$1,500 in support vouchers that can be used to pay for tuition, books or other items or services that enhance and support education or employment.

(5) All Oregonians who are at least 13 years of age and under 25 years of age are eligible to participate in the program. To ensure that Oregon Community Stewardship Corps participants represent a broad cross section of Oregonians, special emphasis shall be given to recruiting school dropouts and other disadvantaged and at-risk youth, according to criteria established by the Oregon Youth [Corps] **Works** Advisory Board **created under section 1 of this 2023 Act.**

(6) To the extent practicable, the program director shall enlist state and federal agencies, local government, nonprofit organizations and private businesses, and any combination of such entities, to act as sponsors for programs administered under this section. Selection of sponsors shall be based on criteria that include the following:

(a) The availability of other resources on a matching basis, including contributions from private sources, other federal, state and local agencies, and moneys available through the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act;

(b) The provision of related educational and job training programs to participants, including but not limited to school and college coursework, training for approved high school equivalency tests such as the General Educational Development (GED), project-related education and professional training;

(c) Assurances that proposed projects will not displace existing employees or duplicate existing private or government programs; and

(d) Assurances that proposed projects are devoted to the enhancement of the community and are not based in maintenance activities and that these projects meet an identified need.

(7) In consultation with the advisory board, the program director shall make grants for programs administered under this section.

**SECTION 5.** ORS 418.660 is amended to read:

418.660. (1) The programs established under ORS 418.650 to 418.663 may include, but shall not be limited to, projects such as:

- (a) Rangeland conservation, rehabilitation and improvement;
- (b) Endangered species and other wildlife habitat conservation, rehabilitation and improvement;
- (c) Urban revitalization;
- (d) Historical and cultural site preservation and maintenance;
- (e) Recreational area development, maintenance, improvement and beautification;
- (f) Road and trail maintenance and improvement;
- (g) Soil conservation work, including erosion control;
- (h) Flood, drought and storm damage assistance and relief;
- (i) Stream, lake, waterfront harbor and port improvement and pollution control;
- (j) Fish culture and habitat maintenance and improvement;
- (k) Insect, disease, rodent and other pestilence control;
- (L) Improvement of abandoned railroad land and right of way;
- (m) Land reclamation and improvement, including strip-mined lands, public landscape work and tree planting programs;
- (n) Energy conservation projects including assistance in the performance of energy efficiency audits, weatherization and renewable resource enhancement;
- (o) Emergency assistance in times of natural or other disaster;
- (p) Recycling projects; and
- (q) Garden, greenhouse and farming programs.

(2) In consultation with the Oregon Youth [*Corps*] **Works** Advisory Board **created under section 1 of this 2023 Act** and the executive director of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, or the designee of the executive director, the program director of the Oregon Youth Corps shall ensure that projects selected under ORS 418.650 to 418.663 shall be consistent with all other provisions of applicable state and federal law relating to the management, oversight and administration of affected public lands.

**SECTION 6.** ORS 476.696 is amended to read:

476.696. (1) As used in this section, “eligible organization” includes Oregon-based nonprofit youth development organizations, **federally recognized Indian tribes in this state, nonprofit associations engaged in workforce development** and public entities that provide programs of job training, skill development and forest-related or rangeland-related career path training.

*[(2) The Oregon Conservation Corps Advisory Committee is established within the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for the purpose of managing the Oregon Conservation Corps Program.]*

*[(3) The Governor shall determine the number of members on the committee and appoint the members.]*

*[(4)]* (2) The [*committee*] **Oregon Youth Works Advisory Board created under section 1 of this 2023 Act** shall, in collaboration with a qualified nonprofit foundation, actively seek and source private donations to support the Oregon Conservation Corps Program.

*[(5)]* (3) The [*committee*] **advisory board** may direct the expenditure of moneys from the Oregon Conservation Corps Fund for a promotional website and materials to solicit private funds.

*[(6) Members may not receive compensation for service on the committee, but, subject to any applicable laws regulating travel and other expenses of state officers and employees, may be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel and other expenses incurred in the performance of committee duties with moneys available to the commission for the purpose of reimbursing the members.]*

*[(7)]* (4) The [*committee*] **advisory board** shall [*administer*] **advise the Higher Education Coordinating Commission on the implementation of** a grant process that:

- (a) Provides funding to support the work conducted by the Oregon Conservation Corps Program.
- (b) Defines and uses an equity lens in awarding grants by identifying and supporting populations with greater vulnerability, including communities of color, indigenous communities, communities with members who have limited proficiency in English and communities with lower-income members.
- (c) Awards grants to eligible organizations.

(d) Ensures that grant awards support activities described in ORS 476.694 (1) and subsection [(8)] (5) of this section.

(e) Establishes guidelines for prioritizing grant-supported projects to reduce community fire risks, promote youth and young adult workforce development and educational experiences and reduce hazardous fuels.

[(8)] (5) The [committee] **commission** shall consult with the State Forestry Department to ensure that the grant process awards funds to proposals that:

(a) Protect at-risk communities and infrastructure within the wildland-urban interface, as described in ORS 477.503.

(b) Meet standards for fuel treatment established by the department.

[(9)] (6) The [committee] **advisory board** shall biennially submit a report, on the timeline described in ORS 293.640, to an appropriate committee or interim committee of the Legislative Assembly, as described in ORS 192.245, and to the State Wildfire Programs Director and Wildfire Programs Advisory Council, regarding the expenditure of moneys deposited in the Oregon Conservation Corps Fund.

**SECTION 7.** ORS 476.698 is amended to read:

476.698. (1) The Oregon Conservation Corps Fund is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Oregon Conservation Corps Fund shall be credited to the fund.

(2) The fund may receive contributions from individuals and private organizations.

(3) Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to be used as directed by the Oregon [*Conservation Corps Advisory Committee*] **Youth Works Advisory Board created under section 1 of this 2023 Act** and for related administrative expenses of the commission.

(4) The commission shall keep records of all moneys credited to and deposited in the fund and the activity or program against which each withdrawal from the fund is charged.

**SECTION 8. Section 1 of this 2023 Act and the amendments to ORS 418.653, 418.657, 418.658, 418.660, 476.696 and 476.698 by sections 2 to 7 of this 2023 Act become operative on January 1, 2024.**

**SECTION 9. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission may take any action before the operative date specified in section 8 of this 2023 Act that is necessary for the commission to exercise, on or after the operative date specified in section 8 of this 2023 Act, all of the duties, functions and powers conferred on the commission by section 1 of this 2023 Act and the amendments to ORS 418.653, 418.657, 418.658, 418.660, 476.696 and 476.698 by sections 2 to 7 of this 2023 Act.**

**SECTION 10. This 2023 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2023 regular session of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.**

**Passed by House April 14, 2023**

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Dan Rayfield, Speaker of House

**Passed by Senate June 22, 2023**

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Rob Wagner, President of Senate

**Received by Governor:**

.....M,....., 2023

**Approved:**

.....M,....., 2023

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Tina Kotek, Governor

**Filed in Office of Secretary of State:**

.....M,....., 2023

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Secretary of State