

Senate Bill 487

Sponsored by Senator PATTERSON; Representatives NOSSE, PHAM H (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**.

Directs Oregon Health Authority to establish grant program to provide financial support to certified dental sealant programs that promote and engage in oral health care coordination activities.

Directs Office of Rural Health to establish grant program to provide scholarship and tuition assistance grants to individuals enrolled in community dental health coordinator programs and to provide matching grants to qualified employers that employ community dental health coordinators.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to oral health care coordination.

2 Whereas active professional care coordination is proven to reduce barriers to care and improve
3 health outcomes; and

4 Whereas there are no commonly used dental billing codes for oral health care coordination; and

5 Whereas approximately one-quarter of grade school students seen by Oregon Health Authority-
6 certified oral health screening and sealant programs require follow-up dental care; and

7 Whereas development of community dental health coordinators would help build new oral health
8 care infrastructure for otherwise non-reimbursable care coordination services; and

9 Whereas investment in care coordination and an innovative workforce is essential to achieving
10 the oral health care goals in this state; now, therefore,

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

DENTAL SEALANT PROGRAM COORDINATED CARE ACTIVITIES

12 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section, "certified dental sealant program" means a local**
13 **school-based dental sealant program described in ORS 431A.725 that is certified by the**
14 **Oregon Health Authority.**

15 **(2) The authority shall establish a program to award grants to provide financial support**
16 **to certified dental sealant programs that promote and engage in oral health care coordi-**
17 **nation activities.**

18 **(3) Grants awarded under this section shall be disbursed equally to grantees in an**
19 **amount determined by the authority by rule.**

20 **(4) The authority shall prescribe by rule the forms and processes by which a certified**
21 **dental sealant program may apply for grants under this section, including the length of time**
22 **the application period shall remain open.**

23 **(5) As soon as practicable after the close of an application period, the authority shall**
24 **review all timely and complete applications, in accordance with rules adopted by the au-**
25 **thority, and approve or reject each application and disburse grant awards to approved grant**
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27 **NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.
28 New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 applicants no later than August 1 of each calendar year.

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3 **COMMUNITY DENTAL HEALTH COORDINATORS**

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5 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:**

6 (a) "Community dental health coordinators" means dental assistants or dental hygienists
7 who:

- 8 (A) Have completed a community dental health coordinator program;
- 9 (B) Focus on the prevention of dental disease in rural or underserved communities; and
- 10 (C) Are trained in oral health care coordination, including skills necessary to connect
11 patients to dental health resources within the community.

12 (b) "Community dental health coordinator program" means a program that provides
13 community college-level courses or course work in a course of study that offers professional
14 training as a community dental health coordinator.

15 (c) "Coordinated care organization" has the meaning given that term in ORS 414.025.

16 (d) "Dental assistant" has the meaning given that term in ORS 679.010.

17 (e) "Dental hygienist" means a dental hygienist licensed under ORS chapter 680.

18 (f) "Qualified employer" includes any of the following that provides oral health services
19 to patients in rural or underserved areas:

- 20 (A) Clinical dental offices or practices.
- 21 (B) Federally qualified health centers.
- 22 (C) Clinics operated by dental care organizations that provide dental care to members
23 of a coordinated care organization.
- 24 (D) Mobile dental clinics.

25 (2)(a) The Office of Rural Health shall develop and implement a program to:

26 (A) Award grants to provide scholarships and other tuition assistance to individuals who
27 enroll in a community dental health coordinator program. In awarding grants under this
28 subparagraph, priority may be given to individuals who live or work in rural or underserved
29 areas.

30 (B) Award two-year matching grants to provide partial reimbursement to qualified em-
31 ployers for costs associated with employing community dental health coordinators.

32 (b) To be eligible to receive a grant under paragraph (a)(B) of this subsection, a qualified
33 employer must:

34 (A) Employ, within one year after the individual's completion of a community dental
35 health coordinator program, at least one individual as a community dental health coordina-
36 tor.

37 (B) Provide proof that demonstrates the employer has the means to provide matching
38 funds that are equal to 100 percent of the amount awarded by the Office of Rural Health for
39 the grant.

40 (c) The Office of Rural Health may require a qualified employer that receives a grant
41 award under paragraph (a)(B) of this subsection to report to the office on an annual basis
42 regarding the use of the funds.

43 (3) The Office of Rural Health may adopt rules to carry out this section, including rules
44 specifying the application process by which an individual enrolled in a community dental
45 health coordinator program and a qualified employer may apply for grants under this section,

1 and the selection criteria that will be used in awarding grants.

2 (4) The Office of Rural Health shall award grants from funds appropriated by the Legis-
3 lative Assembly for allocation to the office, or from funds otherwise available from any other
4 source, for the purpose of awarding grants in accordance with the provisions of this section,
5 as follows:

6 (a) Fifty percent of the moneys shall be used to award grants to provide scholarships and
7 other tuition assistance under subsection (2)(a)(A) of this section.

8 (b) Fifty percent of the moneys shall be used to award grants to eligible qualified em-
9 ployers under subsection (2)(a)(B) of this section.

10
11 **APPROPRIATIONS**

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13 **SECTION 3.** There is appropriated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium be-
14 ginning July 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$900,000 for the purpose of
15 carrying out the provisions of section 1 of this 2023 Act.

16 **SECTION 4.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
17 ated to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for allocation to the Office of
18 Rural Health, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount
19 of \$900,000, to award grants in accordance with the provisions of section 2 of this 2023 Act.

20 **SECTION 5.** The unit captions used in this 2023 Act are provided only for the convenience
21 of the reader and do not become part of the statutory law of this state or express any leg-
22 islative intent in the enactment of this 2023 Act.