

HB 2961-1  
(LC 3386)  
3/24/23 (DRG/ps)

Requested by Representative RUIZ

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
HOUSE BILL 2961**

1 After line 2 of the printed bill, insert:

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

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

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

17 “Whereas performance on key student outcomes and outcomes for histor-  
18 ically underserved populations must improve rapidly for this state to meet  
19 the 40-40-20 goal; and

20 “Whereas in 2018 the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly established a  
21 Joint Committee on Student Success to create a plan to improve educational

1 outcomes for K-12 students throughout Oregon; and

2 “Whereas in 2019 the Eightieth Legislative Assembly passed the Student  
3 Success Act to meet specific K-12 student needs, including physical health  
4 and safety, mental or behavioral health, increased instructional time, re-  
5 duced class sizes or staff case loads, and the need to broaden curricular op-  
6 portunities; and

7 Whereas in 2019 the Eightieth Legislative Assembly established the Fund  
8 for Student Success to receive net revenues from a corporate activity tax;  
9 and

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

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

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

21 “Whereas the task force found that combined state and federal grant aid  
22 for a student at the lowest income level is insufficient to meet the full cost  
23 of attendance at many public institutions of higher education in Oregon;  
24 now, therefore,”.

25 Delete lines 4 through 11 and insert:

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

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

28 **“(2) The Legislative Assembly should enact policies and appropriate  
29 sufficient moneys to ensure that historically underrepresented stu-  
30 dents at post-secondary institutions of education have increased access**

1 to wraparound services and support programs that have been demon-  
2 strated to promote positive outcomes.

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

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

8 “SECTION 3. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall  
9 regularly:

10 “(1) Evaluate rules adopted by the commission that impact how the  
11 commission distributes or awards grants or financial aid to students  
12 enrolled in post-secondary institutions of education; and

13 “(2) To the degree permitted by law, amend rules described in sub-  
14 section (1) of this section in order ensure that the enrollment needs  
15 of adult Oregonians who are currently in the professional workforce  
16 are being met in an equitable manner.

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

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

23 “(b) Assist students who desire to attend a post-secondary institu-  
24 tion of education identify and utilize available resources, including but  
25 not limited to financial resources.

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

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

1       **“(2) The program must:**

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

5       **“(A) Programs that assist first-generation or historically under-**  
6 **served students;**

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

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

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

10       **“(E) Programs that result in a student earning a General Educa-**  
11 **tional Development (GED) certificate; or**

12       **“(F) Programs that provide English for Speakers of Other Lan-**  
13 **guages (ESOL); and**

14       **“(b) Develop metrics for how the commission will evaluate applica-**  
15 **tions for block grants under paragraph (a) of this subsection.**

16       **“(3) The commission shall adopt any rules necessary for the ad-**  
17 **ministration of this section, including but not limited to any require-**  
18 **ments related to:**

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

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

23       **“(c) Prescribing grant calculations programs.**

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

26       **SECTION 6. (1) The Department of Early Learning and Care shall**  
27 **conduct a comprehensive review of both the Oregon Student Child**  
28 **Care Grant Program administered by the Higher Education Coordi-**  
29 **nating Commission and child care centers located at post-secondary**  
30 **institutions of education in this state in order to determine the com-**

1 **ination of direct student support and state grants that would best**  
2 **meet the needs of the greatest number of student parents enrolled at**  
3 **post-secondary institutions of education in this state.**

4 **“(2) The department shall submit, in the manner provided by ORS**  
5 **192.245, a report that describes the review conducted and determi-**  
6 **nations reached under subsection (1) of this section, and may include**  
7 **recommendations for legislation, to the interim committees of the**  
8 **Legislative Assembly related to higher education no later than Sep-**  
9 **tember 15, 2024.**

10 **“SECTION 7. Section 6 of this 2023 Act is repealed on January 2,**  
11 **2025.**

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

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

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

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

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

20 **“(C) The office responsible for course registration;**

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

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

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

24 **“(a) Internally develop an integrated network that includes all stu-**  
25 **dent support offices; and**

26 **“(b) Provide each student enrolled at the institution with a liaison**  
27 **who is responsible for helping the student successfully navigate and**  
28 **utilize the integrated network of student support offices.**

29 **“SECTION 9. (1) Notwithstanding ORS 348.205, 348.250 or 348.260, the**  
30 **Higher Education Coordinating Commission may provide Oregon Op-**

1 opportunity Grant awards that are in excess of the maximum Oregon  
2 Opportunity Grant amount established under ORS 348.205 to low-  
3 income qualified students who either receive federal Pell grants or  
4 federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

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

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

8 “SECTION 11. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropri-  
9 ation, there is appropriated to the Higher Education Coordinating  
10 Commission, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the Gen-  
11 eral Fund, the amount of \$\_\_\_\_, for the purpose of providing enhanced  
12 Oregon Opportunity Grants in the manner described in section 9 of  
13 this 2023 Act.

14 “SECTION 12. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropri-  
15 ation, there is appropriated to the Higher Education Coordinating  
16 Commission, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the Gen-  
17 eral Fund, the amount of \$\_\_\_\_, for allocation to public post-  
18 secondary institutions of education for the purpose of providing grants  
19 to keep students enrolled through one-time or transitory emergency  
20 situations.

21 “SECTION 13. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropri-  
22 ation, there is appropriated to the Higher Education Coordinating  
23 Commission, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the Gen-  
24 eral Fund, the amount of \$\_\_\_\_, for allocation to Oregon TRIO Asso-  
25 ciation, the Future Connect scholarship and support program at  
26 Portland Community College and the Educational Opportunities Pro-  
27 gram at Oregon State University.

28 “SECTION 14. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropri-  
29 ation, there is appropriated to the Higher Education Coordinating  
30 Commission, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the Gen-

1 eral Fund, the amount of \$\_\_\_\_, for the purpose of implementing the  
2 legislative findings described in section 1 of this 2023 Act.

3 **“SECTION 15.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropri-  
4 ation, there is appropriated to the Higher Education Coordinating  
5 Commission, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the Gen-  
6 eral Fund, the amount of \$\_\_\_\_, for the purpose of providing block  
7 grants to public institutions of higher education in the manner de-  
8 scribed in section 5 of this 2023 Act.

9 **“SECTION 16.** This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate  
10 preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is  
11 declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect on July 1, 2023.”.

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