



Legislative Fiscal Office
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2025 Regular Session

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Bill Title: Relating to the Oregon Opportunity Grant program.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Summary of Fiscal Impact

Costs related to the measure are anticipated to be minimal - see explanatory analysis.

Measure Description

The measure removes the Shared Responsibility Model for calculating Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) awards from current law; and replaces it with a requirement that the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) determine award amounts based on enrollment level and financial need. The measure allows HECC to make OOG awards to qualifying students not pursuing a degree, and specifies HECC’s rulemaking authority regarding OOG awards to qualifying students in eligible programs that do not lead to a degree.

Fiscal Analysis

The measure is anticipated to have a minimal fiscal impact on HECC because, although the measure will allow for more opportunities for nontraditional adult students and students in short-term degree programs, the OOG program can scale based on the level of investment provided by the Legislature.

The Oregon Opportunity Grant program has changed over time how it awards grants. From 2001-02 to 2007-08, maximum grants were based on 11% of cost of attendance and income limits were based on a percent of median income. Beginning in 2008-09, the Shared Responsibility Model was implemented where grants awarded were intended to be equal to the difference between the Office of Student Assistance and Completion’s determination of the average cost of education (including books, transportation, living expenses, and tuition and fees) and the student/family’s ability to pay. The ability to pay was based on an amount that varies with the student’s financial resources and qualifications for federal student aid (the family share and the federal share). As a result, award amounts varied by income level and other financial resources and by type of institution, and more students from middle income families became eligible for grants. There was never sufficient funding to fully implement the Shared Responsibility Model, so maximum grant awards and other actions were established to stay within budgeted amounts. Under ORS 348.205(8) and OAR 575-031-0025, when available funding is insufficient to cover the state share, HECC calculates a maximum award amount and prioritizes students with the greatest financial need.

Relevant Dates

The measure takes effect on January 1, 2026, and first applies to the 2026-27 academic year.

The measure allows HECC to delay making OOG awards to students not pursuing a degree until after the 2026-27 academic year.