

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SB 796

Relating to Oregon Board of Accountancy scholarships

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: General Government Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Manning

SB 796 authorizes the Board of Accountancy to create a grant program to provide need-based scholarships for students seeking accounting degrees in college or individuals wishing to become certified public accountants in Oregon. The measure permanently authorizes the Board to use moneys in the Oregon Board of Accountancy Fund to provide grants for accounting scholarships in Oregon; however, the Board would still require Other Funds expenditure limitation from the Legislature to fund accounting scholarships again in the future.

The measure provides the requisite statutory authority for a proposed policy option package in the Board's 2025-27 legislatively adopted budget, which would make a one-time investment of \$1 million, from the Board's operating reserves, in support of need-based accounting scholarships. This one-time investment is projected to reduce the Board's 2025-27 ending balance from 27 months to nine months of operating reserves. The measure does not authorize the Board to administer its own scholarship program; instead, the Board will leverage an existing scholarship program in the private sector.

The General Government Subcommittee recommends that SB 796 be reported out do pass.