

A-Engrossed House Bill 2730

Ordered by the House April 3
Including House Amendments dated April 3

Sponsored by Representatives BOICE, OWENS, SCHARF; Representatives BOSHART DAVIS, DIEHL, HELM, LEVY B, MCDONALD, MCINTIRE, MCLAIN (Pre-session 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. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act creates a new program to encourage beginning farmers and ranchers and creates a new fund for the program. The Act goes into effect when the Governor signs it. (Flesch Readability Score: 73.1).

[Digest: The Act creates a new program to encourage beginning farmers and ranchers. The Act creates a new fund for the program. (Flesch Readability Score: 79.3).]

Establishes a beginning farmer and rancher incentive program in the State Department of Agriculture. Requires the department to establish types of incentives to provide to beginning farmers and ranchers.

Establishes the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Incentive Fund. Continuously appropriates moneys in the fund to the department for purposes of the incentive program. **Appropriates moneys for deposit into the fund.**

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to incentives for beginning agricultural operators; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. (1) There is created in the State Department of Agriculture a beginning farmer and rancher incentive program for the purpose of assisting beginning farmers and ranchers in this state. The department shall prescribe by rule:

(a) Participant eligibility criteria, including the types of farmers and ranchers who may participate in the program.

(b) The terms and conditions of participation in the program.

(c) The types of incentives that may be provided, including but not limited to:

(A) Loan repayment subsidies;

(B) Stipends; and

(C) Scholarships for students at institutions of higher education based in this state who are enrolled in training programs aimed at preparing students to be farmers and ranchers, if:

(i) The scholarship funds are distributed equitably among schools offering the training programs, based on the percentage of Oregon students attending those schools; and

(ii) The maximum scholarship for each student does not exceed the highest resident tuition rate at publicly funded farming or ranching training programs in this state.

(d) If the funds allocated to the program from the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Incentive Fund established under section 2 of this 2025 Act are insufficient to provide assistance to all of the applicants who are eligible to participate in the program, the priority for

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 the distribution of funds.

2 (e) The financial penalties imposed on an individual who fails to comply with terms and
3 conditions of participation.

4 (2) The department may enter into contracts with one or more public or private entities
5 to administer the beginning farmer and rancher incentive program or parts of the program.

6 (3) The department shall decide no later than April 1 of each academic year the distrib-
7 ution of funds for scholarships that will be provided in the next academic year.

8 (4) The department may receive gifts, grants or contributions from any source, whether
9 public or private, to carry out the provisions of this section. Moneys received under this
10 subsection shall be deposited in the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Incentive Fund estab-
11 lished under section 2 of this 2025 Act.

12 SECTION 2. The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Incentive Fund is established in the
13 State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Begin-
14 ning Farmer and Rancher Incentive Fund shall be credited to the fund. The fund consists
15 of moneys appropriated to the fund by the Legislative Assembly and gifts, grants or other
16 moneys contributed to the fund by any source, whether public or private. Moneys in the fund
17 are continuously appropriated to the State Department of Agriculture to carry out section
18 1 of this 2025 Act.

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated to the State Department of Agriculture, for the
20 biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$400,000 for deposit
21 in the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Incentive Fund established by section 2 of this 2025
22 Act.

23 SECTION 4. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
24 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect
25 on its passage.
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