

SENATE AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 785

By COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

April 14

On page 1 of the printed bill, delete lines 4 through 28 and delete page 2 and insert:

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:

“(a) ‘Agriculture program’ includes any degree or nondegree program of not more than one academic year in length that prepares an individual to teach agriculture, rangeland, farming, forestry, natural resources and other fields directly supporting agricultural and environmental sectors and careers.

“(b) ‘Agriculture teacher’ includes any teacher of high school courses in agriculture, rangeland, farming, forestry, natural resources and other fields directly supporting agricultural and environmental sectors and careers.

“(c) ‘Qualified student’ has the meaning given that term in ORS 348.180.

“(2) The Agriculture Education Scholarship Program is established within the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

“(3) In addition to any other form of student financial aid authorized by law, the commission may award grants to any qualified student under the program established under this section in accordance with rules adopted by the commission.

“(4) A qualified student is eligible to receive a grant awarded under the program established under this section if the qualified student is enrolled in a qualified agriculture program that will prepare the student to be an agriculture teacher in a high school in this state.

“(5) A grant awarded under this section to a qualified student may not be for more than the equivalent of the cost of one full-time academic year in the agriculture program.

“(6) The commission shall adopt rules for the implementation and administration of this section. At minimum, the rules adopted under this subsection must:

“(a) Establish a process to identify agriculture programs that would qualify for the program established under this section; and

“(b) Determine the criteria for awarding a grant under this section to any qualified student.

SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2025 Act first applies to the 2026-2027 academic year.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$1,000,000 for the purpose of administering the program established in section 1 of this 2025 Act.”.