

# DRAFT

## SUMMARY

Directs Office of Student Access and Completion to provide support services to enable students to be successful in Oregon Promise program.  
Takes effect July 1, 2016.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to enabling students to be successful in the Oregon Promise program; amending ORS 341.522; and prescribing an effective date.

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

**SECTION 1.** ORS 341.522 is amended to read:

341.522. (1) The Office of Student Access and Completion shall administer the Oregon Promise program as provided by this section.

(2) Subject to subsections (5) and (6) of this section, the office shall provide a waiver of tuition for community college courses to a person who meets the criteria described in subsections (3) and (4) of this section. The waiver shall be a grant and limited as provided by subsections (5) and (6) of this section.

(3) A grant shall be awarded under this section to a person who meets the following criteria:

(a) Is enrolled in courses that are:

(A) Offered at a community college in this state; and

(B) Determined by the office, in accordance with rules adopted by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, to be required for completion of:

(i) A one-year curriculum for students who plan to transfer to another

1 post-secondary institution of education;

2 (ii) An associate degree; or

3 (iii) A program in career and technical education;

4 (b) Has been a resident of this state for at least 12 months prior to en-  
5 rolling in the courses described in paragraph (a) of this subsection;

6 (c) Attained the person's highest level of education in this state prior to:

7 (A) Receiving a diploma under ORS 329.451;

8 (B) Receiving a General Educational Development (GED) certificate as  
9 provided by ORS 350.175; or

10 (C) Completing grade 12 in compliance with the requirements of ORS  
11 339.035;

12 (d) Attained the person's highest level of education as described in para-  
13 graph (c) of this subsection within six months from the date that the person  
14 first enrolls in courses described in paragraph (a) of this subsection for the  
15 purpose of receiving a grant under this section;

16 (e) Earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better in high  
17 school or otherwise demonstrated an equivalent academic ability, as deter-  
18 mined by the office according to rules adopted by the commission;

19 (f) Completed and submitted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid  
20 for each academic year and accepted all state and federal aid grants avail-  
21 able to the person, if eligible to file the application; and

22 (g) Has not completed either of the following:

23 (A) More than a total of 90 credit hours, or the equivalent, at a post-  
24 secondary institution of education; or

25 (B) A curriculum, degree or program, as described in paragraph (a)(B) of  
26 this subsection.

27 (4)(a) A person continues to remain eligible to receive a grant under this  
28 section if the person, in addition to satisfying the criteria specified in sub-  
29 section (3) of this section, meets the following criteria:

30 (A) Maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better during  
31 each term for which the person has received a grant under this section;

(B) Makes satisfactory progress toward a curriculum, degree or program, as described in subsection (3)(a)(B) of this section, as determined by the office according to rules adopted by the commission; and

(C) Enrolls in courses described in subsection (3)(a) of this section for a sufficient number of credit hours to be considered at least a half-time student each term for at least three terms in each consecutive academic year.

(b) A person who fails to maintain the cumulative grade point average specified in paragraph (a)(A) of this subsection becomes ineligible to receive a grant under this section for the term after which the person fails to maintain the cumulative grade point average, unless the eligibility requirement of paragraph (a)(A) of this subsection is waived by the office according to rules adopted by the commission.

(5)(a) The total amount of a grant awarded under this section shall be based on each term that a person is enrolled in courses described in subsection (3)(a) of this section. After the amount of tuition for the person for the term is reduced by \$50, to be paid by the person, and reduced by any amounts received by the person in state and federal aid grants, the person shall be eligible for a grant under this section in an amount that equals:

(A) Except as provided by paragraph (b) of this subsection, not less than the greater of:

(i) \$1,000; and

(ii) The person's actual cost for tuition.

(B) Not more than the lesser of:

(i) The average cost of tuition at a community college in this state, as determined by the office; and

(ii) The person's actual cost for tuition.

(b) The minimum amount of a grant, as calculated under paragraph (a) of this subsection, may be prorated for a person who is enrolled in courses described in subsection (3)(a) of this section for a sufficient number of credit hours to be considered at least a half-time student but not a full-time student.

(c) The commission may prescribe by rule whether to include fees, and any limitations related to the inclusion of fees, when determining the actual cost of tuition or the average cost of tuition under this subsection.

(6) The total amount in grants awarded under this section by the office may not exceed \$10 million per fiscal year, or any lesser amount available to the office for the purpose of this section. The commission may adopt by rule the priority by which grants are awarded, which may allow for preference to be given to persons enrolled in school districts or high schools that meet specified criteria.

(7) The commission shall adopt any rules necessary for the administration of this section, including any requirements related to:

(a) Specifying the form and timelines for submitting an application for a grant under this section;

(b) Determining whether a person is eligible for a grant under this section, including whether the person shall be given priority as allowed under subsection (6) of this section;

(c) Implementing programs or policies that improve the academic success or completion rates for persons who receive a grant under this section;

(d) Prescribing eligibility requirements and grant calculations for persons dually enrolled in a community college and a public university; and

(e) Evaluating the impact of the program established under this section, including any requirements for reporting data needed for evaluations.

**(8)(a) The office shall provide support services to persons who:**

**(A) Have not yet attained the highest level of education described in subsection (3)(c) of this section and who may become eligible to receive a grant under this section upon attainment of the highest level of education described in subsection (3)(c) of this section; or**

**(B) Are enrolled in a community college in this state and who are eligible for a grant under this section or have received a grant under this section.**

**(b) The support services provided under this subsection must be**

1 **tailored to help persons transition from high school to community**  
2 **college and achieve success at a post-secondary institution of higher**  
3 **education.**

4 [(8)] (9) No later than December 31 of each even-numbered year, the  
5 commission shall submit to an interim legislative committee related to edu-  
6 cation a report that summarizes the commission's findings on the impact of  
7 the program established under this section. The report shall include:

8 (a) Student completion rates of curricula, degrees and programs described  
9 in subsection (3)(a)(B) of this section;

10 (b) The amount of federal aid grants received by persons who received a  
11 grant under this section;

12 (c) The financial impact of the program on school districts that had stu-  
13 dents receive a grant under this section;

14 (d) The financial impact and the enrollment impact of the program on  
15 community colleges and public universities in this state; and

16 (e) The overall success rate of the program and financial impact of the  
17 program.

18 **SECTION 2. This 2016 Act takes effect July 1, 2016.**