

CHAPTER 624

AN ACT

HB 2407

Relating to Oregon Opportunity Grants; creating new provisions; amending ORS 348.180, 348.205, 348.260 and 461.543; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. ORS 348.205 is amended to read:

348.205. (1) The Oregon Opportunity Grant program is established within the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

(2) Under the program, the cost of education of a qualified student shall be shared by the student, the family of the student, the federal government and the state.

(3) The Executive Director of the Office of Student Access and Completion shall determine the cost of education of a qualified student based on the type of eligible post-secondary institution the student is attending. The cost of education equals:

(a) For a student attending a community college, the average cost of education of attending a community college in this state;

(b) For a student attending a public university listed in ORS 352.002, the average cost of education of attending a public university;

(c) For a student attending a two-year Oregon-based, generally accredited, not-for-profit institution of higher education, the average cost of education of attending a community college in this state; and

(d) For a student attending the Oregon Health and Science University or a four-year Oregon-based, generally accredited, not-for-profit institution of higher education, the average cost of education of attending a public university listed in ORS 352.002.

(4)(a) The executive director shall determine the amount of the student share. The student share shall be based on:

(A) The type of eligible post-secondary institution the student is attending;

(B) The number of hours of work that the executive director determines may be reasonably expected from the student; and

(C) The amount of loans that the executive director determines would constitute a manageable debt burden for the student.

(b) The student shall determine how to cover the student share through income from work, loans, savings and scholarships.

(c) The student share for a student who attends a community college may not exceed the amount that the executive director determines a student may earn based on the number of hours of work reasonably expected from the student under paragraph (a) of this subsection.

(d) The student share for a student who attends an eligible post-secondary institution that is not a community college may not exceed the sum of the amount that the executive director determines a student may receive as loans plus the amount a stu-

dent may earn based on the number of hours of work reasonably expected from the student under paragraph (a) of this subsection.

(5) The executive director shall determine the amount of the family share. The family share shall be based on the resources of the family.

(6) The executive director shall determine the amount of the federal share based on how much the student or the student's family is expected to receive from the federal government as grants, loans, tax credits or other student assistance.

(7)(a) The executive director shall determine the amount of the state share. The state share shall be equal to the cost of education reduced by the student share, family share and amount received by the student from the federal government.

(b) The executive director shall establish a minimum amount that a student may receive as a state share. If the executive director determines that the amount of the state share of a student is below the minimum amount, the student may not receive the state share.

[(c) In determining the amount of the state share, the executive director shall consider the total amount available to award as grants to all qualified students. If the executive director must reduce the amount of the state share under this paragraph, the executive director may not reduce the amount of the state share awarded to students in the low income range in a greater proportion than the amount that the state share for students in other income ranges is reduced.]

(c) The executive director may not reduce the amount of the state share of a student based on amounts available to the student by virtue of being the designated beneficiary of a college savings network account established under ORS 348.841 to 348.873.

(8) Subject to subsection (9) of this section, if the executive director determines that there are insufficient moneys to award the state share to all qualified students, the executive director:

(a) May establish the maximum amount that a student may receive as a state share. This amount may vary based on whether the student is attending an eligible post-secondary institution on a half-time or full-time basis.

(b) May establish procedures that prioritize awarding Oregon Opportunity Grants to qualified students with the greatest financial need or whose circumstances would enhance the promotion of equity guidelines published by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

(c) May not reduce the amount of the state share awarded to students in the low income range in a greater proportion than the amount that the state share for students in other income ranges is reduced.

[(8)(a)] (9)(a) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall adopt rules that prioritize current foster children and former foster children for receiving Oregon Opportunity Grants when the Oregon Opportunity Grant program does not have

sufficient funding to serve all eligible Oregon students.

(b) For the purposes of this subsection, “former foster child” has the meaning given that term in ORS 351.293.

SECTION 2. (1) **In addition to any other form of student financial aid authorized by law, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission may award moneys from the Oregon Opportunity Grant program to qualified students to reward student persistence and encourage completion of degree programs at eligible post-secondary institutions.**

(2) **Awards made under this section are not subject to the maximum Oregon Opportunity Grant amount established under ORS 348.205.**

(3) **The commission shall establish by rule eligibility criteria for awards made under this section. These criteria shall include, but not be limited to, whether the qualified student is attending an eligible post-secondary institution on a full-time or half-time basis.**

(4)(a) **The Executive Director of the Office of Student Access and Completion shall administer, and determine the size of, awards made under this section.**

(b) **In determining the size of awards made under this section, the executive director shall consider basing the size of the awards on a percentage of the maximum Oregon Opportunity Grant amount established under ORS 348.205.**

SECTION 3. ORS 348.180 is amended to read:

348.180. As used in this section and ORS 348.186, 348.205, 348.230, 348.250, 348.260 and 348.285 **and section 2 of this 2015 Act:**

(1) “Cost of education” includes but is not limited to, tuition, fees and living expenses.

(2) “Eligible post-secondary institution” means:

(a) A public university listed in ORS 352.002;

(b) A community college operated under ORS chapter 341;

(c) The Oregon Health and Science University;

or

(d) An Oregon-based, generally accredited, not-for-profit institution of higher education.

(3) “Qualified student” means any resident student who plans to attend an eligible post-secondary institution and who:

(a) Has not achieved a baccalaureate or higher degree from any post-secondary institution;

(b) Is enrolled in an eligible program as defined by rule of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission; and

(c) Is making satisfactory academic progress as defined by rule of the commission.

SECTION 4. ORS 348.260 is amended to read:

348.260. (1) **In addition to any other form of student financial aid authorized by law, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission may award Oregon Opportunity Grants to qualified students.**

(2) **The amount of a grant shall equal the state share of a qualified student’s cost of education as determined by the Executive Director of the Office of Student Access and Completion and comply with applicable rules and procedures described in [under] ORS 348.205.**

(3) **Grant funds necessary to meet matching requirements for federal funds [under the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Program and Special Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Program of the United States Department of Education] may also be used to award grants to qualified students in any eligible post-secondary institution approved by the commission.**

(4) **Grants may be awarded under this section to qualified students enrolled for any term, including summer term. The commission may prescribe [a specific date] the method and date or dates by which a student must apply to the commission to qualify for a grant [only if the commission determines that the total amount available to award as the state share to all qualified students is not sufficient to cover the total state share amount scheduled to be awarded to all students].**

(5)(a) **A qualified student who receives a grant under this section may apply for renewal of the grant on an annual basis. The commission may not renew the grant if the qualified student has not made a timely application for renewal of the grant.**

(b) **The commission shall by rule establish academic standards and benchmarks that a qualified student must meet to have the student’s grant renewed.**

(c) **If a qualified student [receiving] who receives a grant under this section makes a timely application for renewal of the grant, meets the academic standards and benchmarks established by the commission under this subsection and continues to meet all other grant eligibility criteria [for renewal of the grant], the grant shall be renewed for a second year of attendance at an eligible post-secondary institution.**

(d) **Upon timely application by a qualified student who meets the academic standards and benchmarks established by the commission under this subsection and who continues to meet all other grant eligibility criteria, the commission may continue to renew the grant [may be renewed upon application] until the qualified student has received the equivalent of four full-time undergraduate years of grant funding for an eligible program as defined by the commission.**

(6)(a) **The Executive Director of the Office of Student Access and Completion shall inform eligible post-secondary institutions of the identity of qualified students who attend the institution and who receive a grant under this section for more than one academic year.**

(b) **To the extent possible, eligible post-secondary institutions shall ensure that qualified students identified under this subsection are**

made aware of the academic guidance and counseling services available at the institution.

[(6)] (7) A qualified student who receives a grant under this section must attend the eligible post-secondary institution upon which the grant application is based unless the Executive Director of the Office of Student Access and Completion authorizes the grant to be used at a different eligible post-secondary institution. A qualified student who receives a grant under this section may attend more than one eligible post-secondary institution if the grant application was based on the qualified student attending more than one eligible post-secondary institution.

[(7)] (8) The commission may not make a grant **award** to any qualified student enrolled in a course of study required for and leading to a degree in theology, divinity or religious education.

(9)(a) **The commission shall report annually on or before February 1 to committees of the Legislative Assembly related to higher education regarding the academic success and performance of qualified students who receive grants under this section.**

(b) **In order to meet the reporting requirements set forth in paragraph (a) of this subsection:**

(A) **The commission shall by rule design a method for evaluating the academic success and performance of students who receive a grant under this section; and**

(B) **Upon a request from the commission, eligible post-secondary institutions must provide the commission with the data necessary for the commission to conduct its analysis.**

SECTION 5. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, section 2 of this 2015 Act and the amendments to ORS 348.180, 348.205 and 348.260 by sections 1, 3 and 4 of this 2015 Act first apply to financial assistance awarded for the 2016-2017 academic year.

(2) **The first report to the committees of the Legislative Assembly related to higher education required under ORS 348.260, as amended by section 4 of this 2015 Act, must be filed by February 1, 2020.**

SECTION 6. ORS 461.543 is amended to read:

461.543. (1) Except as otherwise specified in subsection (5) of this section, the Sports Lottery Account is continuously appropriated to and shall be used by the Higher Education Coordinating Com-

mission to fund sports programs at public universities listed in ORS 352.002. Seventy percent of the revenues in the fund shall be used to fund nonrevenue producing sports and 30 percent shall be used for revenue producing sports. Of the total amount available in the fund, at least 50 percent shall be made available for women's athletics.

(2) The [board] **commission** shall allocate monies in the Sports Lottery Account among the public universities, giving due consideration to:

(a) The athletic conference to which the public university belongs and the relative costs of competing in that conference.

(b) The level of effort being made by the public university to generate funds and support from private sources.

(3) As used in subsections (1) to (3) of this section, "revenue producing sport" is a sport that produces net revenue over expenditures during a calendar year or if its season extends into two calendar years, produces net revenue over expenditures during the season.

(4) An amount equal to one percent of the monies transferred to the Administrative Services Economic Development Fund from the State Lottery Fund shall be allocated from the Administrative Services Economic Development Fund to the Sports Lottery Account.

(5) The amounts received by the Sports Lottery Account shall be allocated as follows:

(a) Eighty-eight percent for the purposes specified in subsections (1) to (3) of this section, but not to exceed \$8 million annually, adjusted annually pursuant to the Consumer Price Index, as defined in ORS 327.006.

(b) Twelve percent for the purpose of scholarships, to be distributed equally between scholarships based on academic merit and scholarships based on need, as determined by rule of the [board] **commission**, but not to exceed \$1,090,909 annually.

(c) All additional money to the [Oregon Student Access] commission for the Oregon Opportunity Grant program under ORS 348.260.

SECTION 7. This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect on its passage.

Approved by the Governor July 1, 2015

Filed in the office of Secretary of State July 2, 2015

Effective date July 1, 2015