House Bill 2928

Sponsored by Representatives NELSON, GOODWIN (Presession 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 **as introduced.**

Extends health care provider incentive program to health care providers who are students enrolled in health professional training programs leading to licensure as licensed practical nurse or registered nurse.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to nurse incentives; creating new provisions; amending ORS 676.454; and prescribing an

2

3   effective date.

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

5   <u>SECTION 1.</u> ORS 676.454 is amended to read:

6   676.454. (1) There is created in the Oregon Health Authority a health care provider incentive

7 program for the purpose of assisting qualified health care providers who commit to serving medical

8 assistance and Medicare enrollees in rural or medically underserved areas of this state. The au-

9 thority shall prescribe by rule:

10   (a) Participant eligibility criteria, including the types of qualified health care providers who may

11 participate in the program;

12   (b) The terms and conditions of participation in the program, including the duration of the term

13 of any service agreement, which must be at least 12 months;

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

15   (A) Loan repayment subsidies;

16   (B) Stipends;

17   (C) Medical malpractice insurance premium subsidies;

18   (D) Scholarships for students in health professional training programs at the Oregon Health and

19 Science University;

20   (E) Scholarships for students at institutions of higher education based in this state who are en-

21 rolled in health professional training programs leading to a doctor of osteopathic medicine or doctor

22 of dentistry or a license as a nurse practitioner, physician assistant [*or*]**,** certified registered nurse

23 anesthetist, **licensed practical nurse or registered nurse** if:

24   (i) The scholarship funds are distributed equitably among schools offering the training programs,

25 based on the percentage of Oregon students attending those schools; and

26   (ii) The maximum scholarship for each student does not exceed the highest resident tuition rate

27 at the publicly funded health professional training programs in this state; and

28   (F) Paying the moving expenses of providers not located in rural or medically underserved areas

29 who commit to relocate to such areas;

30   (d) If the funds allocated to the program from the Health Care Provider Incentive Fund estab-

1 lished under ORS 676.450 are insufficient to provide assistance to all of the applicants who are eli-

2 gible to participate in the program, the priority for the distribution of funds; and

3 (e) The financial penalties imposed on an individual who fails to comply with terms and condi-

4 tions of participation.

5 (2) Eligibility requirements adopted for the program:

6 (a) Must allow providers to qualify for multiple health care provider incentives, to the extent

7 permitted by federal law.

8 (b) Must allow providers to qualify for an incentive for multiyear periods.

9 (c) Must give preference to applicants willing to:

10 (A)**(i)** Commit to extended periods of service in rural or medically underserved areas; or

11 [*(B)*] **(ii)** Serve patients enrolled in Medicare and the state medical assistance program in at

12 least the same proportion to the provider's total number of patients as the Medicare and medical

13 assistance patient populations represent in relation to the total number of persons determined by

14 the Office of Rural Health to be in need of health care in the area served by the practice[.]**; and**

15 **(B) In the case of a provider enrolled in a health professional training program leading**

16 **to a license as a licensed practical nurse or registered nurse, also commit to service in a**

17 **hospital setting.**

18 (3) The authority may use funds allocated to the program from the Health Care Provider In-

19 centive Fund to administer or provide funding to a locum tenens program for health care providers

20 practicing in rural areas of this state.

21 (4) The authority may enter into contracts with one or more public or private entities to ad-

22 minister the health care provider incentive program or parts of the program.

23 (5) The authority shall decide no later than September 1 of each academic year the distribution

24 of funds for scholarships that will be provided in the next academic year.

25 (6) The authority may receive gifts, grants or contributions from any source, whether public or

26 private, to carry out the provisions of this section. Moneys received under this subsection shall be

27 deposited in the Health Care Provider Incentive Fund established under ORS 676.450.

28 <u>SECTION 2.</u> **The amendments to ORS 676.454 apply to applications for the health care**

29 **provider incentive program received by the Oregon Health Authority on or after the opera-**

30 **tive date specified in section 3 of this 2023 Act.**

31 <u>SECTION 3.</u> **(1) The amendments to ORS 676.454 by section 1 of this 2023 Act become**

32 **operative on January 1, 2024.**

33 **(2) The Oregon Health Authority may take any action before the operative date specified**

34 **in subsection (1) of this section that is necessary to enable the authority to exercise, on and**

35 **after the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section, all of the duties, functions**

36 **and powers conferred on the authority by the amendments to ORS 676.454 by section 1 of this**

37 **2023 Act.**

38 <u>SECTION 4.</u> **This 2023 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2023**

39 **regular session of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.**

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