



# Legislative Bulletin



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## **Healthy Kids Plan Voter Referral Approved**

On Friday, June 15, the Oregon Senate passed Senate Bill 3 and Senate Joint Resolution 4, the two legislative components of the Healthy Kids Plan. Senate Bill 3 will set up the plan and Senate Joint Resolution 4 will refer the plan to the voters for approval in November. Senate Bill 3, the implementing legislation of the Healthy Kids Plan, will only become effective if voters approve Senate Joint Resolution 4 in the fall. The revenue from the plan will also add back 10,000 people to the Oregon Health Plan, restoring cuts from previous years. Included in the plan will be additional dollars for tobacco prevention efforts in Oregon and new resources to support health care services in rural communities. Senate Bill 3 and Senate Joint Resolution 4 will now move to the House for consideration.

To view the details of the plan, go to:  
[http://www.leg.state.or.us/senatedemocrats/sir4\\_sb3\\_overvie](http://www.leg.state.or.us/senatedemocrats/sir4_sb3_overvie)

## **SHARED RESPONSIBILITY MODEL, SB 334, UNDER CONSIDERATION IN WAYS AND MEANS EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

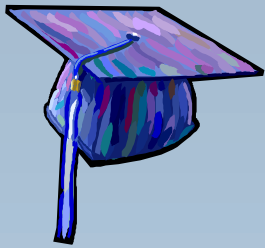
On Thursday, June 14, SB 334, the enabling legislation to create the Shared Responsibility Model of the Oregon Opportunity Grant was carefully scrutinized by the Education Subcommittee of Ways and Means. The model is an innovative approach to helping financially needy Oregonians attend college.

At the hearing on Thursday, the Education Subcommittee raised numerous concerns about the many variables that could change the actual grant award distribution and that may impact the actual funding approved by the Legislature. Committee members also expressed concern about the lack of definitive plans to address or mitigate unexpected changes in grant applications, the number of awards accepted and funding levels.

The Subcommittee has scheduled another hearing on the bill for Friday afternoon, June 15, to continue a discussion of their concerns. It is anticipated that the Subcommittee will impose a number of budget notes to give direction and articulate expectations for implementation of the model.

The Ways and Means Committee has already approved funding for the Opportunity Grant for the 2007-09 biennium, increasing the funding to \$72 million per year, beginning in the second year of the biennium. HB 5044A also included a budget note directing the Oregon Student Assistance Commission to implement the Shared Responsibility Model in that year in a manner so that total Opportunity Grants would not exceed \$72 million in total cost. The Legislative Fiscal Office noted that the approved budget represents a 140% expansion of the program.

Adoption of SB 334 is expected to result in more Oregonians receiving access to higher education, including middle-income families. The Shared Responsibility Model uses a new structure that takes into account the student's ability to pay, funding available from the federal government and family resources when determining aid available to pay for college. If all of those available resources do not add up to cover the cost, the state would fill the gap through the Oregon Opportunity Grant. The Shared Responsibility Model would apply to Oregon students attending community colleges and public or private not-for-profit institutions of higher education in Oregon.



### **BUDGET APPROVED FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

On Friday, June 15, the Joint Ways and Means Committee approved HB 5012, the budget bill for Oregon Community Colleges and Workforce Development. The budget totals \$510.9 in General Fund to support Oregon's community colleges, of which \$500 million will be for direct support in the Community College Support Fund. The budget represents an increase of more than \$71 m or 16.1 %.

### **TEXTBOOK BILL SET FOR GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE**

SB 365 requires college textbook publishers to provide professors and colleges and universities with information regarding their products such as the frequency of textbook updates, supplemental materials such as CD Roms, workbooks and study guides that will be bundled with the textbook, and costs. SB 365 requires that publishers that sell textbook bundles offer higher education institutions the option of ordering each component of the bundle separately and disclose availability and pricing of a separately purchased textbook. A July 2005 study by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that textbook prices have almost tripled from 1986 to 2004, in large part because of the increasing cost of developing the additional items that come with the books. The GAO study found that, nationally, students at four-year schools spent, on average, \$900 for books and supplies in 2003-2004, which was more than a quarter of the average cost of tuition and fees.

SB 365 passed the Senate on May 10 on a vote of 17 Ayes, 11 Nays and passed the House on June 8 on a vote of 49 Ayes, 0 Nays (11 members excused).

### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEGAL CLINIC AT UNIVERSITY OF OREGON TO GET FUNDS FROM INCREASED COURT FEES**

Under HB 2961 which was approved by the Legislature this week, the University of Oregon Law School's Domestic Violence Clinic will receive funding through increased court filing fees. The bill imposes a \$10 filing fee on petitions for annulment, dissolution or separation of marriages. The increased fees are anticipated to raise \$350,400 in the 2007-09 biennium and approximately \$460,000 in the 2009-11 biennium.

Collected fees are deposited in the Domestic Violence Clinical Program Account. The account is used to fund education for victims of domestic violence, stalking or sexual assault. Dollars from the account are allocated through the Department of Higher Education through grants to accredited institutions of higher education that provide civil legal services to victims of domestic violence. Currently the eligible higher education institutions are the law schools at the University of Oregon, Willamette University and Lewis and Clark College.

The University of Oregon has operated a domestic violence program since 1999. The clinic is currently funded primarily through federal grants. These grants are considered tenuous for the future. The fee imposed by HB 2961 is designed to help maintain the current clinic at the University of Oregon and help start similar clinics at Willamette University and Lewis and Clark College.

The bill passed the House on May 16 on a vote of 52 Ayes, 3 Nays and the Senate on June 14 on a vote of 28 Ayes, 1 Nay. The bill will now go to the Governor for his signature.



### **FINAL CLEARANCE FOR K-12 BUDGET**

On Friday, June 15, the Oregon Senate passed House Bills 5019, 5020 and 5021, the budget package that equals the highest level of funding in state history for K through 12 education.

House Bill 5020, the State School Fund, and House Bill 5021, the School Improvement Fund, create a total investment of \$6.245 billion in the K-12 education budget for the 2007-2009 biennium. The funding is the highest invested in education in Oregon's history. The investments target reductions in class sizes and restoration of programs for students.

**HB 5019** is the Department of Education's operating budget, including central operations, the Youth Corrections Education Program, the Oregon State Schools for the Blind and Deaf (Special Schools) and debt service. It also includes the Grant-in-Aid programs. Funding for the K-12 State School Fund is contained in a separate appropriation bill. The Subcommittee approved a total funds budget of \$1,529,284,877 (\$293,706,726 General Fund; \$56,415,089 Lottery Funds; \$169,967,768 Other Funds and \$1,009,195,294 Federal Funds) and 488 positions (446.44 full-time equivalents). This represents a 5.9 percent increase over the 2005-07 Legislatively Approved Budget.

In **HB 5020** the Subcommittee approved \$5.985 billion total funds for the State School Fund (\$5.351 billion General Fund; \$634.1 million Lottery Funds; and \$242,000 Other Funds). This level of funding is 12.8 percent more than the 2005-07 Legislatively Approved Level. Assuming current enrollment forecasts, the recommended budget would increase the funding per Average Daily Membership weighted (ADMw) by \$347, to \$6,460 for the 2007-08 school year over the current year. There would be an additional increase of \$238 to \$6,698, for the 2008-09 school year.

In **HB 5021**, the School Improvement Fund (SIF), the Subcommittee approved \$260,000,000 General Fund for the School Improvement Fund.

## OUS LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER



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The Government Relations office of the Chancellor's Office will be sending you this electronic newsletter about important events of the past week in Salem and things to come in the days ahead. The newsletter will be published every Friday at 4:00 p.m. throughout session. If you wish to suggest items for inclusion or comments on coverage of issues affecting OUS interests at the Legislature, please feel free to e-mail or phone the Salem Government Relations office.

([mary\\_robinson@ous.edu](mailto:mary_robinson@ous.edu), 503-373-7490).

### BILLWATCH AVAILABLE FOR TRACKING

A comprehensive OUS bill tracking system called BillWatch, has been developed to record information about bills affecting the OUS, and to track their progress through the legislative process. BillWatch is designed to be used by members of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education, Chancellor's Office staff, campus leadership and OUS advocates. BillWatch is a secure system and users must obtain a user name and password from the Office of Government Relations to use this service.

Subscribing to BillWatch allows users to subscribe and designate particular bills of interest or to provide a broader search of all legislation. A second benefit of subscribing is notification: upon subscribing to a particular bill, users will receive automatic email notification when action is taken on the bill, e.g., hearings scheduled, amendments engrossed, etc. To request access, go to <http://billwatch.ous.edu/>. From there, choose *Request an Account*. Your request should be processed within 24 hours. An electronic users guide is available by clicking on HELP at the BillWatch main login menu.

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