

House Bill 2785

Sponsored by Representative PARRISH (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**.

Authorizes public universities and Oregon University System to withdraw from Public Employees' Benefit Board health benefit plan and establish or participate in alternative employee health insurance plans.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to health benefit plans for employees in higher education; amending ORS 243.107 and
3 351.094.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 243.107 is amended to read:

6 243.107. (1)(a) A person employed by a public university listed in ORS 352.002 or the Oregon
7 Health and Science University may be considered an eligible employee for participation in one of
8 the group benefit plans described in ORS 243.135 if [*the State Board of Higher Education or*] **the**
9 **governing board of a public university that employs the person elects to participate in a**
10 **group benefit plan described in ORS 243.135.**

11 **(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection, the governing board of a public**
12 **university listed in ORS 352.002 may elect to establish or provide a group benefit plan other**
13 **than a plan described in ORS 243.135.**

14 **(c) An eligible employee under paragraph (a) of this subsection may participate in a group**
15 **benefit plan described in ORS 243.135 or another group benefit plan established or provided**
16 **by a public university listed in ORS 352.002 if the governing board of the public university, or the**
17 **Oregon Health and Science University Board of Directors for Oregon Health and Science University**
18 **employees, determines that funds are available therefor and if:**

19 [(1)] **(2)** Notwithstanding ORS 243.105 (4)(b)(F), the person is a student enrolled in an institution
20 of higher education and is employed as a graduate teaching assistant, graduate research assistant
21 or a fellow at the institution and elects to participate; or

22 [(2)] **(3)** Notwithstanding ORS 243.105 (4)(b)(B) or (C), the person is employed on a less than
23 half-time basis in an unclassified instructional or research support capacity and elects to participate.

24 **SECTION 2.** ORS 351.094 is amended to read:

25 351.094. (1)(a) The State Board of Higher Education shall provide group insurance to employees
26 of the Oregon University System through the Public Employees' Benefit Board or may elect to pro-
27 vide an alternative group health and welfare insurance benefit plan to employees of the Oregon
28 University System on or after October 1, 2016, if the benefit plan is offered through the health in-
29 surance exchange under ORS 741.310, unless their participation is precluded by federal law.

30 **(b) If the State Board of Higher Education elects to provide a group health and welfare**
31 **insurance benefit plan to Oregon University System employees through the Public**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **Employees' Benefit Board, the State Board of Higher Education may subsequently withdraw**
2 **from the plan and establish or provide an alternative group health and welfare insurance**
3 **benefit plan for the Oregon University System employees if the alternative group health and**
4 **welfare insurance benefit plan offers the same level of benefits at a lower cost than through**
5 **the Public Employees' Benefit Board.**

6 [(b)] (c) The governing board of each university with a governing board listed in ORS 352.054
7 shall provide group insurance to employees of the university through the Public Employees' Benefit
8 Board or may elect to provide an alternative group health and welfare insurance benefit plan to
9 employees of the university on or after October 1, 2016, if the benefit plan is offered through the
10 health insurance exchange under ORS 741.310, unless their participation is precluded by federal law.

11 **(d) If the governing board of a university with a governing board listed in ORS 352.054**
12 **elects to provide a group health and welfare insurance benefit plan to employees of the uni-**
13 **versity through the Public Employees' Benefit Board, the governing board may subsequently**
14 **withdraw from the plan and establish or provide an alternative group health and welfare in-**
15 **surance benefit plan for the employees of the university if the alternative group health and**
16 **welfare insurance benefit plan offers the same level of benefits at a lower cost than through**
17 **the Public Employees' Benefit Board.**

18 (2) For the purposes of ORS 243.555 to 243.575, if the State Board of Higher Education or the
19 governing board of a public university with a governing board listed in ORS 352.054 chooses not to
20 participate in the benefit plans offered through the Public Employees' Benefit Board, the State
21 Board of Higher Education or governing board may have the authority granted to the Public
22 Employees' Benefit Board under ORS 243.555 to 243.575 for the administration of an appropriate
23 expense reimbursement plan.

24 (3)(a) The State Board of Higher Education shall offer one or more deferred compensation plans
25 to employees of the Oregon University System. The Oregon University System shall, at the dis-
26 cretion of the board, choose whether to offer its employees the state deferred compensation plan
27 established under ORS 243.401 to 243.507 or another deferred compensation plan that the board
28 elects to make available to the employees of the Oregon University System.

29 (b) The governing board of each public university with a governing board listed in ORS 352.054
30 shall offer one or more deferred compensation plans to employees of the university. The governing
31 board shall choose whether to offer its employees the state deferred compensation plan established
32 under ORS 243.401 to 243.507 or another deferred compensation plan that the governing board elects
33 to make available to the employees of the university.

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