

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. J. Smith
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Edwards

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Minimal fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 21 – 2 – 1

House

Yeas: Barker, Buckley, Cowan, Edwards, Garrard, Jenson, Komp, Kotek, Nathanson, Richardson, G. Smith

Nays: Gilman

Exc:

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Courtney, Edwards, Girod, Johnson, Monroe, Shields, Verger, Whitsett, Winters

Nays: Nelson

Exc: Kruse

Prepared By: Robin LaMonte, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: February 17, 2010

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: HB 3644A Establishes a 15 - member Task Force on Stage Two Business Development and Economic Gardening (Task Force). The bill outlines Task Force membership, required activities, and operations, but does not designate staff to support Task Force activities. The bill establishes Oregon Stage Two Business Development and Economic Gardening Fund (Fund) and authorizes Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) to accept grants, donations, contributions or gifts to be deposited in Fund. The bill allows any grants, donations, contributions or gifts to be deposited into the Fund to carry out the duties of the Task Force, but does not provide any funding for the Task Force. The Task Force is repealed on July 1, 2011. The bill includes an emergency clause and is effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Possible restrictions on gifts, grants and donations that affect implementation of the program

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: HB 3644A establishes the Task Force on Stage Two Business Development (Task Force). The Task Force is charged with identifying and assessing Oregon's business development services; collaborating with state and local governments; making recommendations to the 76th Legislative Assembly; recommending program areas in which Oregon University System programs may choose to participate; recommending criteria for stage two, high-growth businesses; recommending key metrics and outcomes to measure if the state created an economic gardening program; and making recommendations on how an economic gardening program may fit with efforts to support development of the state's minority, women, and emerging small businesses. HB 3644 does not designate staff to support Task Force activities or provide funding for these activities.

The economic gardening concept was created in Littleton, Colorado in 1987. The economic gardening model seeks to create jobs by supporting existing companies in a community. Economic gardening connects entrepreneurs to resources, encouraging the development of essential infrastructure and providing entrepreneurs with needed information.