

Enrolled House Bill 3644

Sponsored by Representatives J SMITH, BARTON, JENSON; Representatives BARKER, BUCKLEY, CLEM, DEMBROW, DOHERTY, ESQUIVEL, FREDERICK, GARRARD, GARRETT, GELSER, GILLIAM, GREENLICK, HARKER, HOLVEY, HOYLE, KAHL, KENNEMER, KRIEGER, MATTHEWS, NATHANSON, READ, RILEY, G SMITH, SPRENGER, STIEGLER, THATCHER, THOMPSON, TOMEI, VANORMAN, WHISNANT, WITT (Presession filed.)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to economic gardening; appropriating money; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas Oregon faces a challenging economic climate; and

Whereas job development and economic recovery are high priorities; and

Whereas small- and medium-sized businesses are strong engines of job creation and economic growth; and

Whereas a subset of small- and medium-sized “stage two” businesses are responsible for a disproportionately large share of job creation; and

Whereas a set of techniques for cultivating stage two businesses with high growth potential, with particular attention to advanced market research and including enhanced connectivity and improved business development infrastructure, has proved effective in recent years and has been given the name “economic gardening”; and

Whereas various cities and organizations in Oregon have begun stage two business development programs that would be aided in implementation and resource development by a state strategy; and

Whereas these techniques present an opportunity to enhance Oregon’s business support infrastructure and aid in economic recovery, job creation and the development of a thriving local economy; and

Whereas several private entrepreneurial foundations have taken interest in the practice of economic gardening and may provide opportunities to leverage nonstate resources for an Oregon economic gardening program; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. (1) There is created the Task Force on Stage Two Business Development and Economic Gardening, consisting of 15 members appointed as follows:

(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint:

(A) Two members from among members of the Senate who shall be from different political parties.

(B) Two members representing municipal or regional economic development organizations.

(C) One member who shall be a current or former business leader with fast-growth business experience.

(b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint:

(A) Two members from among members of the House of Representatives who shall be from different political parties.

(B) Two members representing municipal or regional economic development organizations.

(C) One member who shall be a current or former business leader with fast-growth business experience.

(D) One member representing a nonprofit business development organization.

(c) The Chancellor of the Oregon University System shall appoint one member representing the system who shall be a current or former business leader.

(d) The Director of the Oregon Business Development Department shall appoint:

(A) One member representing the department.

(B) One member representing a small business development center who shall be a current or former business leader.

(e) The Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development shall appoint one member representing the community colleges in this state.

(f) At least two of the nonlegislative members appointed should have knowledge of advanced market research tools and their application.

(2) The task force shall:

(a) Identify and assess Oregon's continuum of business development services with particular attention to the needs of stage two, high-growth businesses, advanced market research, including but not limited to connectivity among business service providers, and infrastructure to support entrepreneurship and growth company capacity building.

(b) Collaborate with state and local governments and their departments, community colleges, institutions of higher education and business and economic development organizations to identify areas for program modification, enhancement, coordination and creation to deliver a more robust continuum of services for stage two, high-growth businesses consistent with the principles of economic gardening.

(c) Make recommendations to the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly for program modification, enhancement, coordination and creation to deliver a more robust continuum of services for stage two, high-growth businesses consistent with the principles of economic gardening.

(d) Recommend program areas in which Oregon University System graduate programs and community colleges may choose to participate in order to assist in providing a more robust continuum of services for stage two, high-growth businesses consistent with the principles of economic gardening, including but not limited to courses of study and internships.

(e) Make recommendations for criteria for stage two, high-growth businesses as the criteria relate to recommended strategies for fast-growth stage-two business development.

(f) Make recommendations for key metrics and outcomes to be measured should the state create an economic gardening program.

(g) Make recommendations for how an economic gardening program may fit within efforts under way to support the development of the state's minority, women and emerging small business enterprises.

(3) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

(4) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the members of the task force.

(5) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

(6) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appointment to become immediately effective.

(7) The task force shall meet at least once every three months, at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson or of a majority of the members of the task force.

(8) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

(9) Notwithstanding ORS 171.072, members of the task force who are members of the Legislative Assembly are not entitled to mileage expenses or a per diem and serve as volunteers on the task force. Other members of the task force are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses and serve as volunteers on the task force.

(10) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist the task force in the performance of its duties and, to the extent permitted by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish such information and advice as the members of the task force consider necessary to perform their duties.

SECTION 2. (1) The Oregon Stage Two Business Development and Economic Gardening Fund is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Oregon Stage Two Business Development and Economic Gardening Fund shall be credited to the fund. Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Business Development Department for the purposes of carrying out the duties of the Task Force on Stage Two Business Development and Economic Gardening. The task force may advise the department on specific means for expending any moneys in the fund.

(2) The Oregon Business Development Department may accept grants, donations, contributions or gifts from any source for deposit in the Oregon Stage Two Business Development and Economic Gardening Fund established in subsection (1) of this section for the purpose of enabling the Task Force on Stage Two Business Development and Economic Gardening to carry out the task force's duties under section 1 of this 2010 Act.

SECTION 3. (1) Section 1 of this 2010 Act is repealed on July 1, 2011.

(2) Upon the repeal of section 1 of this 2010 Act, all funds within the Oregon Stage Two Business Development and Economic Gardening Fund shall be transferred to the General Fund.

SECTION 4. This 2010 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2010 Act takes effect on its passage.

Passed by House February 22, 2010

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Chief Clerk of House

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Speaker of House

Passed by Senate February 23, 2010

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President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M.,....., 2010

Approved:

.....M.,....., 2010

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Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M.,....., 2010

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Secretary of State