

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carriers – House: Rep. Jenson
Rep. J. Smith
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Nelson

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 22 – 0 – 3

House

Yeas: Beyer, Buckley, Cowan, Garrard, Komp, McLane, Nathanson, Nolan, Richardson,
G. Smith, Thatcher, Whisnant

Nays:

Exc: Freeman, Kotek

Senate

Yeas: Devlin, Edwards, Girod, Johnson, Monroe, Nelson, Thomsen, Verger, Whitsett, Winters

Nays:

Exc: Bates

Prepared By: Steve Bender, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: May 20, 2011

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Extends the sunset of the Task Force on Stage Two Business Development and Economic Gardening to January 2, 2016, and changes the Task Force name to the Grow Oregon Council. Expands the Council to 19 members. Expands the Council's charges to include: exploring opportunities for connecting market research and economic gardening service to capital access programs and facilitating access of stage two, high-growth business to international markets. Directs Council to advise the Oregon Business Development Department on an economic gardening pilot project, if such a project is authorized. Suspends Council upon completion of the evaluation of an economic gardening pilot project.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Economic gardening services
- Types of firms served
- Successes of economic gardening programs
- Fiscal impact of the bill
- Funding for the Council and for a potential pilot project

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Economic gardening is an approach to economic development that focuses on helping existing stage two businesses grow. Stage two businesses typically have 10 to 100 employees, and successful stage two businesses generate a significant portion of total job growth in the economy. During the 2010 Session, the Legislature established a state Task Force to support economic gardening programs in the state.