

**Employment Department
Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship Initiative**

The Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development recommends that the Joint Committee on Ways and Means approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Labor in the amount of \$5 million. The grant will support and augment existing efforts to expand apprenticeship training to hard-to-fill occupations. It is a competitive grant opportunity, and applications are due April 30. No state matching funds are required.

The Employment Department and its partners – including local workforce investment boards and community colleges – are developing the Oregon Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship Initiative. The partners will work together to identify apprentice-able occupations and the employers willing to participate, as well as candidates for apprenticeship. Education partners, Workforce Investment Boards and participating employers would collaborate to develop classroom curriculum and training requirements, and place apprentices in on-the-job learning opportunities. The Bureau of Labor and Industries would register and monitor these programs, as it does with other apprenticeship programs. Grant funds would support outreach and candidate retention efforts, project management, and training local WorkSource partners to make them aware of the new programs and which job seekers could be candidates.

The Employment Department anticipates 3 positions (2.0 FTE) associated with this grant, for project management/coordination and for the purpose of training partners in identifying apprenticeship training opportunities and candidates for the new apprenticeship programs. The Employment Department could return to the February 2016 legislative session or a subsequent meeting of the Emergency Board for expenditure limitation and position authority if its grant application is successful.

The Subcommittee recommends approval of the request.