

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education, Innovation, and Workforce Development

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/18/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments, Be Printed Engrossed And Be Referred To Ways And Means By Prior Reference.

Meeting Dates: 02/13, 02/18

House

Yeas: 9 - Gallegos, Hayden, Johnson, McKeown, Williamson, Read, Reardon, Whisnant, Nearman

Prepared By: Victoria Cox, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Transfers appropriation of moneys in Oregon Growth Fund from Oregon Growth Board to Oregon Business Development Department. Authorizes department to use moneys in fund and Oregon Growth Account to pay administrative costs, and for purposes related to duties and responsibilities of Oregon Growth Board. Makes Director of Oregon Business Development Department voting member of Oregon Growth Board. Adds additional member at-large to board. Allows board to waive requirement for reinvestment in Oregon an amount at least equal to amount of principal transferred to management company for investment. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Availability of funding for Oregon business start-ups
- Oregon Growth Board membership
- Need for flexibility regarding reinvestment requirements

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Allows board to waive requirement for reinvestment in Oregon an amount at least equal to amount of principal transferred to management company for investment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Growth Board was created by the 2012 Legislative Assembly in an effort to spur more economic growth in Oregon, with a focus on increasing the state's ability to grow companies from early stages to large, locally headquartered firms. An important focus is placed on leveraging state resources to improve the availability of capital for high-growth companies.

The board is currently comprised of seven voting members and three non-voting, ex-officio members, all of whom receive Senate approval. House Bill 2280-A adds two members to the board: the Director of the Oregon Business Development Department and an additional at-large member. The measure also replaces the board as the recipient of state appropriations with the Oregon Business Development Department.