

**Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session**  
**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**House Committee On Rural Communities, Land Use, and Water**

**MEASURE: HB 2435 A**

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**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued  
**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 02/24/15  
**Action:** Do Pass As Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, And Bill Be Referred To Ways  
And Means.  
**Meeting Dates:** 02/19, 02/17, 02/24  
**Vote:**  
Yeas: 6 - Clem, Gilliam, Gomberg, Helm, McLane, Post  
Exc: 1 - Witt  
**Prepared By:** Ian Davidson, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Directs Oregon Business Development Department (Department) and Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) to establish Oregon Infrastructure Opportunity Program. Identifies program purpose as providing loans for rural infrastructure projects. When considering project eligibility, directs Department and IFA to take following into account: provide immediate job creation opportunities tied to specific business expansion and recruitments in rural Oregon, take advantage of emerging technologies and innovative approaches, maintain existing manufacturing infrastructure or promote new business, and will contribute to economic stabilization and recovery of rural areas in state. Establishes Oregon Infrastructure Opportunity Program Fund. Defines “rural.” Adds municipalities to definition of local government. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Need for emergency clause
- How much to appropriate to bill

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Adds municipalities to definition of local government.

**BACKGROUND:**

The stated mission of Business Oregon, the state’s economic development agency, is “to create, retain, expand and attract businesses that provide sustainable, living-wage jobs for Oregonians through public-private partnerships, leveraged funding and support of economic opportunities for Oregon companies and entrepreneurs.”

The Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) Board is a nine-member independent board with oversight of the Infrastructure Finance Authority and the state's infrastructure activities. Six board members are appointed by the Governor; three are direct appointments.

House Bill 2435A would direct Business Oregon and the IFA to create the Infrastructure Opportunity Program, which would invest in infrastructure projects in rural Oregon. When considering project eligibility, the measure directs the Department and the IFA to take into account whether the project would provide immediate job creation opportunities tied to specific business expansion and recruitments in rural Oregon, take advantage of emerging technologies and innovative approaches, maintain existing manufacturing infrastructure or promote new business, or will contribute to economic stabilization and recovery of rural areas in the state. Individual loans may not exceed \$2.5 million.

House Bill 2435A would also create the Infrastructure Opportunity Fund which would be established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund.