

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Transportation and Economic Development

MEASURE: HB 2437 A
CARRIER: Rep. Gorsek

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/25/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 02/09, 03/25

Vote:

Yeas: 7 - Bentz, Davis, Gorsek, Hack, Lively, McKeown, McLain

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes the Oregon Business Development Department to enter into agreements for grants and other assistance including, but not limited to, direct purchase of goods or services related to entrepreneurial and industry development. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Clarifies current agency practice in statute
- Grants and loans support industry associations such as Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership
- Budgeted funds are leveraged 4:1

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Deletes references to loans from measure.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Business Development Department, commonly known as Business Oregon, is the state's designated agency for assisting with and fostering economic development. The agency's mission is to "create, retain, expand and attract businesses that provide sustainable, living-wage jobs for Oregonians through private partnerships, leveraged funding and support of economic opportunities for Oregon companies and entrepreneurs." As part of its mission, Business Oregon carries out the policies of the Oregon Business Development Commission, acts as official state liaison for industries interested in locating in Oregon, coordinates state and federal economic development programs, recruits businesses to Oregon and helps existing Oregon businesses to grow and expand.

As part of its mission, Business Oregon is directed to undertake several types of entrepreneurial and industry development activities, including: focus groups; state technical and financial support for industry associations; assisting in establishment of research consortia; joint training and education programs and curricula; cooperative market and entrepreneurial development; product certification and testing analysis; technical and financial support for certification of developable sites for traded sector industry; assistance in making investments to advance entrepreneurial and industry-related development activities or other competitive objectives; and assistance and support that promote regional economic development strategies for entrepreneurship and development of targeted industry clusters in rural communities.

House Bill 2437-A authorizes Business Oregon to also enter into agreements for grants or other assistance related to entrepreneurial and industrial development including, but not limited to, direct purchase of goods or services.