

HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 2998

By COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

March 30

- 1 On page 1 of the printed bill, line 2, after the first semicolon delete the rest of the line.
2 In line 3, delete “and 527.620;”.
- 3 Delete lines 5 through 21 and delete pages 2 through 8 and insert:
4 **“SECTION 1. As used in sections 2 to 5 of this 2015 Act:**
5 **“(1) ‘Business development project’ has the meaning given that term in ORS 285B.050.**
6 **“(2) ‘Western juniper’ means trees of the species *Juniperus occidentalis*.**
- 7 **“SECTION 2. (1) The Oregon Business Development Department shall provide economic**
8 **development assistance to persons engaged in the business of western juniper harvesting or**
9 **of manufacturing products from western juniper. The department may provide the economic**
10 **development assistance for any western juniper harvesting or related manufacturing busi-**
11 **ness development project that the department deems reasonable, including but not limited**
12 **to the provision of moneys for business or infrastructure expansion and the hiring or re-**
13 **tention of workers.**
- 14 **“(2) The department shall provide economic development assistance under this section**
15 **as either a loan or a grant. If the department provides the economic development assistance**
16 **as a loan, the department shall make the loan subject to partial or full forgiveness if the**
17 **borrower meets detailed performance measures. Subject to subsection (5) of this section, the**
18 **department may provide both loans and grants to a person to meet business development**
19 **project needs for the western juniper harvesting or related manufacturing business of the**
20 **person.**
- 21 **“(3) An application for economic development assistance under this section must:**
22 **“(a) Be submitted as a loan application in a form acceptable to the department; and**
23 **“(b) Contain a business development project plan.**
- 24 **“(4)(a) The department may issue a loan under this section only if the business develop-**
25 **ment project plan contained in the loan application demonstrates to the satisfaction of the**
26 **department that:**
- 27 **“(A) The project is feasible and reasonable from a practical and economic standpoint;**
28 **“(B) The project is unlikely to be developed without economic development assistance**
29 **from the department; and**
- 30 **“(C) The western juniper harvesting or related manufacturing business will have a rea-**
31 **sonable prospect of meeting performance measures required by the department.**
- 32 **“(b) A loan made under this section may be interest-bearing or interest-free and may be**
33 **secured by any assets or revenues agreed to by the department and the borrower.**
- 34 **“(c) The department may establish detailed performance measures that, if met by the**
35 **borrower, may result in all or part of the loan being forgiven. The performance measures**

1 may include, but need not be limited to, employment figures, payroll amounts, sales, limita-
2 tions on expenses and the amounts of western juniper harvested or otherwise removed from
3 lands in this state due to the business. A loan made under this section must require the
4 borrower to repay the loan if the western juniper harvesting or related manufacturing busi-
5 ness fails to meet required performance measures.

6 “(5) The department may issue a grant under this section only if a loan application is
7 submitted under subsection (3) of this section and the department determines that the re-
8 payment of a loan for a needed business development project would create an undue hardship
9 that would impair the viability of the western juniper harvesting or related manufacturing
10 business. The department may use a grant issued in accordance with this subsection to
11 supplement or replace economic development assistance that the department provides as a
12 loan under this section.

13 “(6) Loans and grants authorized under this section shall be made from the Western
14 Juniper Industry Fund established under section 6 of this 2015 Act. Any principal and inter-
15 est paid to the department by a borrower on a loan made under this section shall be depos-
16 ited in the fund.

17 “SECTION 3. The Oregon Business Development Department shall make technical busi-
18 ness assistance available to persons engaged in, or proposing to engage in, the business of
19 western juniper harvesting or of manufacturing products from western juniper. The depart-
20 ment shall make the assistance available to support the creation, growth or development of
21 a western juniper harvesting or related manufacturing business, including but not limited to
22 assistance designed to improve business efficiency, stability, transparency and profitability.
23 The assistance may be in standardized or customized form. The department may provide
24 technical business assistance directly or may enter into personal service contracts for qual-
25 ified providers to render the assistance.

26 “SECTION 4. (1) The Oregon Business Development Department shall provide, or shall
27 partially or fully fund the provision of, workforce training assistance to persons engaged in
28 the business of western juniper harvesting or of manufacturing products from western
29 juniper. The department shall provide or fund the training assistance to support the growth
30 and development of a western juniper harvesting or related manufacturing business, includ-
31 ing but not limited to supporting business by qualifying workers in harvesting, commercial
32 driving and milling. The training assistance may be in standardized or customized form. If
33 the department provides training assistance under this subsection or as part of a cooperative
34 agreement under subsection (2) of this section, the department may provide the assistance
35 directly or may enter into personal service contracts for qualified providers to render the
36 assistance.

37 “(2) The department shall give preference to creating basic worker skills, but may also
38 provide or fund training to assist in the maintenance or advancement of worker skills to
39 ensure the viability of western juniper harvesting or related manufacturing businesses in
40 this state. The department, the Employment Department, local governments as defined in
41 ORS 174.116, nonprofit organizations and private associations may enter into cooperative
42 agreements for:

43 “(a) Identifying the projected workforce needs of western juniper harvesting or related
44 manufacturing businesses, potential workers for those businesses and the training needs of
45 those potential workers; and

1 “(b) Providing workforce training assistance to meet the needs described in paragraph
2 (a) of this subsection.

3 “(3) Workforce training assistance described in this section must be designed to increase
4 the likelihood that individuals in the local areas near western juniper harvesting or related
5 manufacturing businesses will have the necessary skill sets to obtain work in those busi-
6 nesses. The Oregon Business Development Department may give training assistance prefer-
7 ence to individuals in the local areas who are unemployed.

8 “**SECTION 5.** The Institute for Natural Resources, in consultation with the State
9 Forestry Department, the State Department of Agriculture and the State Department of
10 Fish and Wildlife and individuals and organizations interested in management, marketing or
11 research matters related to western juniper harvesting, shall identify and map high quality
12 marketable stands of western juniper that can be harvested in a commercially and environ-
13 mentally reasonable manner for use in manufacturing. The institute shall maximize the use
14 of remote sensing technology to carry out the mapping and identification. To the extent
15 practicable, the institute shall make use of information developed from other state efforts
16 to map western juniper and associated landscape scale restoration and wildlife initiatives.
17 The institute shall make the mapping and identification information available without charge
18 for use by persons engaged in the business of western juniper harvesting or of manufacturing
19 products from western juniper. The institute may periodically review and update the infor-
20 mation.

21 “**SECTION 6.** The Western Juniper Industry Fund is established in the State Treasury,
22 separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Western Juniper In-
23 dustry Fund shall be credited to the fund. The fund shall consist of any moneys appropriated,
24 allocated, deposited or transferred to the fund by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise.
25 Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Business Development De-
26 partment for the purpose of carrying out activities under sections 2, 3 and 4 of this 2015 Act.
27 Any moneys deposited in the fund for the purpose of carrying out a particular activity shall
28 be kept in a separate subaccount of the fund and accounted for separately.

29 “**SECTION 7.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appro-
30 priated to the Oregon Business Development Department for deposit in the Western Juniper
31 Industry Fund, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, out of the General Fund, the amount
32 of \$800,000, which may be expended by the department as follows:

33 “(1) \$500,000 for carrying out activities under section 2 of this 2015 Act.

34 “(2) \$200,000 for carrying out activities under section 3 of this 2015 Act.

35 “(3) \$100,000 for carrying out activities under section 4 of this 2015 Act.

36 “**SECTION 8.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appro-
37 priated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for the biennium beginning July
38 1, 2015, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$100,000, which may be expended to allow
39 Institute of Natural Resources personnel at Portland State University to carry out institute
40 activities under section 5 of this 2015 Act.

41 “**SECTION 9.** This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
42 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect
43 July 1, 2015.”