

Senate Bill 745

Sponsored by Senator BOQUIST

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Authorizes Oregon Business Development Department to make grants to small counties to provide assistance in obtaining affordable Internet access.

Creates Oregon Small County Internet Access Fund. Continuously appropriates moneys in fund to department for purpose of making grants to small counties to obtain affordable Internet access.

Directs department to report to interim committees of Legislative Assembly by December 31, 2016.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to grants to establish Internet access in small counties.

2 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

3 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section, "small counties" means counties having a popu-**
4 **lation of less than 100,000, according to the latest federal decennial census or as determined**
5 **under ORS 190.520.**

6
7 **(2) The Oregon Business Development Department may make grants from the Oregon**
8 **Small County Internet Access Fund to qualified small counties for the purpose of providing**
9 **assistance to small counties in obtaining affordable Internet access.**

10 **(3) The department shall adopt rules to establish eligibility standards for small counties**
11 **to qualify for grants and to define the type of assistance small counties may obtain with**
12 **grants made under this section.**

13 **(4) The department shall collaborate with state agencies, local governments, schools, in-**
14 **stitutions of higher education and other public and private entities and organizations, to**
15 **leverage Internet access opportunities in small counties through the making of grants under**
16 **this section.**

17 **SECTION 2. (1) The Oregon Small County Internet Access Fund is created within the**
18 **State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Oregon**
19 **Small County Internet Access Fund shall be credited to the fund.**

20 **(2) Moneys in the fund shall consist of:**

21 **(a) Amounts donated to the fund;**

22 **(b) Amounts appropriated or otherwise transferred to the fund by the Legislative As-**
23 **sembly;**

24 **(c) Investment earnings received on moneys in the fund; and**

25 **(d) Other amounts deposited in the fund from any source.**

26 **(3) Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Business Develop-**
27 **ment Department for the purpose of making grants under section 1 of this 2015 Act.**

28 **(4) The department may use moneys in the fund to pay the administrative costs associ-**
29 **ated with the fund and with making grants from the fund.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **SECTION 3.** The Oregon Business Development Department shall submit a report by
2 **December 31, 2016, to interim committees of the Legislative Assembly with subject matter**
3 **jurisdiction over rural counties and economic development regarding the number and type**
4 **of grants made to small counties under section 1 of this 2015 Act, and the status,**
5 **affordability and availability of Internet access in small counties in this state.**

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