

SB 139 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Workforce

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$2,000,000 from General Fund to Oregon Department of Administrative Services for construction of and capital equipment for an innovation and workforce training center in Rockwood neighborhood in Gresham. Specifies appropriation is not in lieu of any other appropriation. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2017.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

The Rockwood neighborhood in Gresham has a large racially, ethnically, and linguistically diverse population of nearly 42,000 residents, a poverty rate of 40 percent, and a median household income below \$39,000.

SB 139 appropriates \$2,000,000 from the General Fund to construct and equip an innovation and workforce training center in the Rockwood neighborhood. The center would offer services through public and private partnerships, operated by partners co-located at the facility to provide job training, small business development, a digital media lab, incubator office space, and a manufacturing maker space. Anticipated partners include Mount Hood Community College, Mount Hood Community College Small Business Development Center, MetroEast Community Media, WorkSource Oregon, Rockwood Makerspace, and Worksystems, Inc.

Other workforce centers in Oregon follow a similar model of providing a facility and collaborating with public and private partners to provide services. For example, in 2016, the Legislative Assembly appropriated funds for the Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center (OMIC), a new research, development and training center in Columbia County that brings together educational partners across the state to provide hands-on workforce training to college students in aerospace and associated careers. The WorkSource Rogue Valley One-Stop Careers Centers in Southern Oregon relies on public and private partnerships to provide services for career seekers to build skills and connect to jobs and careers.

SB 139 has a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for consideration of lottery bonds to fill the remaining gap in funding for construction and capital equipment of the proposed center.