

HB 2534 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

Prepared By: Cassandra Soucy, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/28, 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Community Leverage Fund as of January 1, 2018. Directs the Oregon Business Development Department (Business Oregon) to make grants and loans to fund proposals that address outcomes in health, early learning, workforce and economic development and education. Allows counties, cities, school districts, post-secondary institutions, early learning hubs, regional achievement collaboratives, workforce investment boards or regional solutions advisory committees to apply for grants and loans. Specifies that grants and loans be distributed in substantially equal amounts among economic development regions in state. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Poverty in Oregon communities
- Collaboration between local stakeholders to address poverty
- Funding for local poverty interventions
- Resources to address poverty

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Replaces bill. Establishes the Oregon Opportunity Commission (Commission) as of January 1, 2018. Specifies the purpose of the Commission to award funds, develop assessment tools, review laws and rules and identify incentives to address concentrated poverty. Specifies Commission membership to consist of 19 members including nonprofit organizations supporting racial minorities and Native American communities. Allows Commission to administer oath, take depositions and issue subpoenas. Establishes the Oregon Opportunity Fund and continuously appropriates money to the Commission. Specifies amount appropriated from General Fund is in addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

BACKGROUND:

According to the 2015 American Community Survey one year estimate, 15.4 percent of Oregonians live in poverty. For someone to be considered to be living in poverty in a four person household, that household would have to make \$24,250 or less in a year. An individual living alone would have to make \$11,770 or less to be considered to be living in poverty.

House Bill 2534 would create the Community Leverage Fund (Fund) to be administered by Business Oregon. The bill would allow community organizations to propose projects to the Fund that improve outcomes related to health, early learning, economic development, and education. House Bill 2534 also stipulates that grants and loans given by the Fund must be made in roughly equal proportions through the state's economic development regions.