

# Senate Bill 537

Sponsored by Senator THATCHER (Presession filed.)

## 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**.

Establishes Joint Interim Legislative Committee to Review Economic Development Programs in Oregon. Directs committee to study and compile data regarding economic development programs, determine effectiveness of programs and make recommendations for consistent, statewide evaluation process. Requires report to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to business and economic development no later than September 15, 2018. Allows committee to introduce legislation to implement recommendations.

Sunsets committee on December 31, 2018.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to evaluation of economic development programs in Oregon; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**

5 (a) **“Economic development program” means a publicly or privately administered pro-**  
6 **gram or activity with the primary purpose of encouraging the establishment and growth of**  
7 **businesses, including creating and retaining jobs, and that:**

8 (A) **Receives state funding or federal funding allocated through state appropriations; and**

9 (B) **Provides financial assistance, tax credits or direct services to specific industries,**  
10 **businesses, local governments or organizations.**

11 (b) **“Economic development program” does not include academic and research programs**  
12 **at educational institutions unless the programs involve job training or apprenticeships.**

13 (2) **The Joint Interim Legislative Committee to Review Economic Development Programs**  
14 **in Oregon is established, consisting of six members appointed as follows:**

15 (a) **The President of the Senate shall appoint three members from among members of the**  
16 **Senate.**

17 (b) **The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint three members from**  
18 **among members of the House of Representatives.**

19 (3) **The committee shall:**

20 (a) **Research, study and compile data regarding economic development programs in**  
21 **Oregon and summarize information about the programs, including but not limited to:**

22 (A) **The state or local agencies or entities responsible for administering the programs.**

23 (B) **The purposes of and physical locations targeted by the programs, such as providing**  
24 **assistance to small businesses, early stage businesses, entrepreneurs, technology-based**  
25 **businesses, minority-owned businesses, traded and industrial sector businesses, economically**  
26 **distressed areas, rural areas and brownfields.**

27 (C) **The sources and amounts of public and private moneys used in the operation of the**  
28 **programs and how moneys are distributed or disbursed.**

**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 (D) The types of assistance provided by the programs, whether financial or nonfinancial,  
2 including but not limited to grants, loans, loan guarantees, tax credits, tax incentives, tech-  
3 nological assistance and assistance acquiring capital, equipment or real property.

4 (E) Any other information to be researched, studied and compiled by the committee as  
5 established by the committee by rule.

6 (b) Determine the effectiveness of the economic development programs identified under  
7 paragraph (a) of this subsection, using existing analyses of outcomes, performance measures  
8 and benchmarks, if any, and making recommendations to create or improve evaluation  
9 methods, processes and techniques to measure the effectiveness of economic development  
10 programs in the future.

11 (c) Develop recommendations for a consistent, statewide evaluation process for economic  
12 development programs that incorporate specific criteria including, but not limited to, the  
13 number and type of jobs created and retained, the number and type of businesses established  
14 and maintained and successful efforts to streamline the administration and operation of  
15 economic development programs in the future.

16 (4) The committee may hold hearings and take testimony as necessary and appropriate  
17 for the performance of the committee's duties, functions and powers under subsection (3)  
18 of this section.

19 (5) The committee may not transact business unless a quorum is present. A quorum  
20 consists of a majority of committee members from the House of Representatives and a ma-  
21 jority of committee members from the Senate.

22 (6) Action by the committee requires the affirmative vote of a majority of committee  
23 members from the House of Representatives and a majority of committee members from the  
24 Senate.

25 (7) The committee shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

26 (8) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-  
27 ment to become immediately effective.

28 (9) The committee shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson  
29 or of a majority of the members of the committee.

30 (10) Members of the committee shall receive an amount equal to that authorized under  
31 ORS 171.072 from funds appropriated to the Legislative Assembly for each day spent in the  
32 performance of their duties as members of the committee.

33 (11) The committee may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the committee.

34 (12) The committee may pre-session file legislation in the manner provided in ORS 171.130  
35 for interim committees. All legislation recommended by official action of the committee must  
36 indicate that it is introduced at the request of the committee.

37 (13) The committee shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and  
38 may include recommendations for legislation, to the interim committees of the Legislative  
39 Assembly related to business and economic development no later than September 15, 2018.

40 (14) The Legislative Administrator shall provide staff support to the committee.

41 (15) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist  
42 the committee in the performance of its duties and, to the extent permitted by laws relating  
43 to confidentiality, to furnish such information and advice as the members of the committee  
44 consider necessary to perform their duties.

45 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2017 Act is repealed on December 31, 2018.

1        **SECTION 3. This 2017 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**  
2        **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2017 Act takes effect**  
3        **on its passage.**

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