

## **HB 2641 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **House Committee On Economic Development**

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**Prepared By:** Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 2/20

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Changes purpose for Oregon Business Development Department's facilitation of regional collaboration to assisting start-up businesses that have as a purpose the commercialization of university or university-assisted research and increasing the number and ensuring the retention of such businesses. Appropriates \$1,000,000 for the Department to distribute pro rata to the Oregon State University Advantage Accelerator and Regional Accelerator & Innovation Network, if funds are equally matched and assisted start-up businesses are or could be traded sector businesses. Requires both recipients to report by September 15, 2020 to interim legislative committees related to economic development and specifies report contents. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

##### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

##### **BACKGROUND:**

Oregon Solutions, located at the National Policy Consensus Center, in the College of Urban and Public Affairs' Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University, provides a system and process for problem solving, using what is called community governance. Oregon Solutions operates through partnerships with other organizations, including the Governor's Regional Solutions Program to assist with priority projects where state agency assistance and funding is available and needed. The Regional Solutions Program approaches community and economic development by recognizing the unique needs of each region in the state and working at the local level to identify priorities, solve problems, and seize opportunities to get specific projects completed.

The Regional Accelerator & Innovation Network (RAIN) is an Oregon consortium of government, higher education, and the business community created to advance the formation and growth of tech-based startups in the South Willamette Valley through two accelerators, one in Eugene and one in Corvallis. RAIN Eugene connects the local innovation ecosystem around the University of Oregon and the cities of Eugene and Springfield with the entrepreneurial community to create high impact, innovative, traded-sector companies that can grow and thrive in our community. RAIN Eugene started operations as an independent organization in 2014 and is managed as a virtual nonprofit by the University of Oregon, the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce, and the City of Eugene.

The Oregon State University Advantage Accelerator (OSU Advantage) was created in 2013 to help develop high-growth, innovative products and services by taking companies through all phases of the startup process. It assists faculty, staff, students, and the community to commercialize research and concepts.

House Bill 2641 changes the purpose of the Oregon Business Development Department's facilitation of regional collaboration, appropriates \$1,000,000 to the department to distribute pro rata to OSU Advantage and RAIN Eugene under certain conditions, and requires OSU Advantage and RAIN Eugene to report by September 15, 2020 on the businesses assisted, funding raised, jobs created, and other metrics.