

HB 2454 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Economic Development

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Meeting Dates: 3/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows professional licensing boards to issue a license to an out-of-state applicant if the applicant is licensed or authorized in another state to engage in the same occupation or profession, and the applicant intends to engage in the occupation or profession in the Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region. Requires applicants to meet all Oregon standards within two years following the date of original license or authorization.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 2012 (2017) established the seven-member Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Board, appointed by the Governor, to formulate and implement strategies and practices for strategic investment in workforce and economic development in the Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region. The region is defined as being located within 20 miles of the Oregon border with Idaho, including primarily the cities of Ontario, Vale and Nyssa, Willowcreek, Brogan, and areas southwest of Vale. The Board recommends improvements in education, workforce development, land use, and other regulations.

According to the Board's December 2018 report to the House Interim Committee on Economic Development and Trade, "a strong potential exists for Oregon's Malheur County and its communities along the Idaho border, but the region has experienced stagnant growth, economic decline and workforce challenges in recent years while the neighboring communities of Idaho have seen significant development. The very different laws and policies of the two states have resulted in a disadvantage for the Eastern Oregon border region. The Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Board will advance policies, projects and programs that address and overcome these disadvantages. The Board will achieve this through its power to make grants and loans supporting economic and workforce development in the region; and to seek waivers or exemptions from state laws, rules and regulations that inhibit growth; as well as to encourage legislation tailored to the region's unique needs."

House Bill 2454 allows a professional licensing board to issue a license to an out-of-state applicant if the applicant is licensed or authorized in another state to engage in the same occupation or profession, and the applicant intends to engage in the occupation or profession in the Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region. The measure also requires applicants to meet all Oregon standards within two years following the date of the original license or authorization.