

**HB 2541 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:** 3/20

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Allows Oregon Business Development Department to make grants to certain cities for purpose of studying, developing, and capitalizing a public transit system. Makes eligible cities with a population of 35,000 or less that have a community college or public university of at least 3,000 full-time students and meet other criteria. Requires application from city to be filed, reviewed, and approved in accordance with Department rules. Appropriates General Fund moneys to Department for grants.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Oregon Business Development Department, more commonly known as Business Oregon, is the state's economic development agency. Its mission is to invest in Oregon businesses, communities, and people to promote a globally competitive, diverse, and inclusive economy. Business Oregon supports the retention and expansion of existing Oregon businesses within traded sectors, carries out strategies to create a dynamic startup and entrepreneurial environment, and recruits companies from outside the state to fill supply chain gaps and grow existing industry clusters. It also operates infrastructure financing programs that are available to local municipalities for water systems, wastewater systems, port development, roads, and other infrastructure needs related to business growth and community development.

House Bill 2541 allows Business Oregon to make grants for the purpose of studying, developing and capitalizing a public transit system to cities with a population of 35,000 or less that have a community college or public university with at least 3,000 full-time students and meet other certain requirements.