

**HB 2933 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Sen. Knopp

**Senate Committee On Housing**

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**Action Date:** 04/22/19

**Action:** Do pass.

**Vote:** 5-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 5 - Fagan, Golden, Heard, Knopp, Monnes Anderson

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** C. Ross, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 4/22

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Includes workforce housing as part of "workforce development" activity of Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Board. Authorizes the Oregon Business Development Department to contract administration of Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Board Fund. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Priorities for economic growth in Eastern Oregon region
- Explicit authority needed to execute intent of House Bill 2012 (2017)

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

House Bill 2012 (2017) established the Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Board (Board), a seven-member board appointed by the Governor to develop and implement strategies to improve regional economic health near the border with Idaho and to administer loans or grants in support of same. The region is defined as any territory within 20 miles of the border, including primarily the cities of Ontario, Vale, Nyssa, Willowcreek, Brogan, and areas southwest of Vale. The Board makes recommendations to the Legislative Assembly annually concerning workforce education and training, competitive disadvantages, private/public partnerships, and other items it identifies to promote regional economic health.

According to the Board's annual report in 2018, its list of funding priorities includes projects or programs that: improve competitiveness with Idaho, increase the Region's residential property tax base, enhance economic vitality and opportunity, enhance or expand workforce development and growth, expand transportation infrastructure, develop regionally significant industrial sites, extend private utilities to regionally significant industrial sites, and provide support services and technical assistance to entrepreneurs and business owners in the region.

House Bill 2933 includes development of residential housing that is necessary to attract and retain the region's workforce. The measure also authorizes Business Oregon to enter into intergovernmental agreements to administer funds.