

House Bill 2934

Sponsored by Representatives WILLIAMSON, NOSSE, NATHANSON, Senator BEYER; Representative WILDE (at the request of Portland Innovation Quadrant)

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**.

Appropriates moneys to Oregon Business Development Department to make grants to nonprofit corporations for purpose of hiring staff to coordinate activities related to organization, administration and programming of innovation districts. Defines "innovation district" as innovation ecosystem consisting of certain economic, physical and networking assets. Sets forth further mandatory criteria for innovation district to which nonprofit corporation's grant application relates.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to innovation districts; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1. There is appropriated to the Oregon Business Development Department, for**
5 **the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$2,000,000 for**
6 **the purpose of carrying out the provisions of section 2 of this 2019 Act.**

7 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:**

8 (a) "Innovation district" means a district that embodies an innovation ecosystem con-
9 sisting of the following economic, physical and networking assets:

10 (A) Public and private firms, institutions and organizations with the goal of driving, cul-
11 tivating and accelerating economic innovation;

12 (B) Neighborhood-building amenities;

13 (C) Public and private infrastructure designed and organized to stimulate connectivity,
14 collaboration and innovation and to tie the district to the city in which it is located; and

15 (D) Relationships among individuals, firms, institutions and organizations that have the
16 potential to advance knowledge-based innovation for both traditional and electronic sectors
17 of the economy.

18 (b) "Nonprofit corporation" means:

19 (A) A corporation organized under ORS chapter 65 or any predecessor of ORS chapter
20 65; or

21 (B) A corporation described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as defined
22 in ORS 305.842 (1) that is exempt from income tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Re-
23 venue Code.

24 (2)(a) The moneys appropriated under section 1 of this 2019 Act are continuously appro-
25 priated to the Oregon Business Development Department for the purpose of making grants
26 to nonprofit corporations dedicated to the organization, administration and programming of
27 innovation districts, subject to the criteria set forth in subsection (3) of this section.

28 (b) Grant moneys received by a nonprofit corporation under this section may be used

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 solely to hire employees and agents to coordinate activities for the innovation district.

2 (c) The total amount of grants made in a year may not exceed \$1,000,000.

3 (d) A grant may not be made to a nonprofit corporation under this section with respect
4 to:

5 (A) More than one innovation district per city.

6 (B) An innovation district unless all the property constituting the innovation district is
7 contiguous. For purposes of this subparagraph, two parcels of property shall also be consid-
8 ered contiguous if they are connected by a bridge for pedestrians and bicyclists or another
9 such crossing of any kind.

10 (3) A grant may not be made to a nonprofit corporation under this section unless the
11 innovation district to which the corporation's grant application relates:

12 (a) Is located, in whole or in part, within five miles of a university described in paragraph

13 (d) of this subsection;

14 (b) Was established before September 1, 2019;

15 (c) Has an opportunity zone within the district's boundaries; and

16 (d) Involves partnership with:

17 (A) A public institution of higher education as defined in ORS 352.002 that is an R1 re-
18 search university according to the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education
19 with a student population of at least 2,000 full-time students; or

20 (B) Oregon Health and Science University established under ORS 353.020.

21 **SECTION 3.** This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
22 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect
23 on its passage.