

HB 4028 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Economic Development

Prepared By: Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows the Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Board to establish up to 10 active grant or loan programs for the purposes of enhancing and expanding workforce development and economic development in the Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region. Requires the Board to establish grant and loan program criteria by rule in consultation with the Oregon Business Development Department (known as Business Oregon). Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Allows the Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Board to establish programs through which one or more grants or loans may be made and to operate the programs directly or through a contract with a third-party administrator. Limits the number of active programs to 10.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 2012 (2017) established the Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Board (Board), a seven-member board appointed by the Governor to formulate and implement strategies and practices for strategic investment in workforce development and economic development in the Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region. The region is defined as any territory 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 is authorized to make up to 10 grants or loans to eligible applicants to advance workforce development and economic development of the region. The Legislative Assembly approved a one-time \$5,000,000 General Fund appropriation to the Oregon Business Development Department, known as Business Oregon, for the use of the Board to make loans and grants to eligible applicants.

Shawna Peterson, Board Chair, reported on the Board's progress to the House Interim Committee on November 18, 2019. The Board has identified two incentive programs (Competitive Housing Incentive Program and Property Improvement Rebate Program); three loan programs (Infrastructure Revolving Loan Program, Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program, and Industrial Land Certification Loan Program); and four grant programs (Ready Workforce Mobilization Grant, Education and Workforce Training Grant, Community Improvement Planning Grant, and Border Region Economic Edge Grant) to implement.

House Bill 4028 would allow the Board to implement the nine grant or loan programs they have identified.