

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Authorizes Sustainability Board to hire employees for specified purposes.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to federal funding opportunities for natural resource programs;
3 amending ORS 184.429.

4 Whereas federal funding and grant opportunities offer critical support for
5 state programs, with some states receiving greater support than others; and

6 Whereas the State of Oregon's percentage share of federal investment in
7 certain program areas has decreased in recent decades, including decreasing
8 from providing over 60 percent of the state's water infrastructure funding in
9 1977 to only 10 percent in 2014; and

10 Whereas improved coordination, oversight and technical support can help
11 maximize Oregon's competitiveness and per capita share of federal resources;
12 now, therefore,

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

14 **SECTION 1.** ORS 184.429 is amended to read:

15 184.429. (1) In addition to any other duties or powers provided by law, the
16 Sustainability Board:

17 (a) Shall identify, evaluate, make recommendations and propose legis-
18 lation, regulatory changes or policy modifications to agencies, the Governor,
19 the Legislative Assembly, private entities or other bodies for the purpose of
20 encouraging activities that best sustain, protect and enhance the quality of
21 the environment, economy and community for the present and future benefit
22 of Oregonians.

1 (b) Shall develop and promote policies and programs that will assist in
2 the meeting of sustainability goals specified in ORS 184.423.

3 (c) Shall submit a biennial report to the Legislative Assembly by March
4 31 of each odd-numbered year on the board's activities and recommendations.

5 (d) May apply for and accept, from whatever source, appropriations, gifts
6 or grants of money or other property. The board shall deposit moneys re-
7 ceived under this paragraph into the State Treasury to the credit of the
8 Sustainability Board Fund established under ORS 184.435.

9 (e) Shall consult with and seek comment from trade associations, organ-
10 izations, businesses and other groups and individuals representing pertinent
11 interests as part of developing recommendations.

12 (f) Shall develop and promote proposals that jointly and mutually enhance
13 local economies, the environment and community health for the present and
14 future benefit of Oregonians.

15 (2) Nothing in this section is meant to discourage or prohibit any person,
16 group or committee from discussing or proposing mechanisms, including the
17 modification of tax policies, to promote sustainability.

18 **(3) Subject to any applicable provisions of the State Personnel Re-**
19 **lations Law, the board may hire employees to aid it in performing,**
20 **coordinating and facilitating activities related to federal funding op-**
21 **portunities that support natural resource programs and policies, in-**
22 **cluding but not limited to:**

23 **(a) Identifying, tracking and raising awareness about relevant fed-**
24 **eral funding opportunities;**

25 **(b) Providing guidance, training and technical assistance to help**
26 **potential applicants pursue and obtain federal support;**

27 **(c) Promoting interagency coordination regarding relevant funding**
28 **needs and requests;**

29 **(d) Developing and maintaining clear needs assessments that grant**
30 **applicants can use to support requests for federal investment in this**
31 **state;**

1 **(e) Seeking to ensure clean compliance audits through responsible**
2 **management and training on tracking and reporting; and**

3 **(f) Promoting availability of state matching dollars necessary to**
4 **obtain federal funds.**

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