

HB 3112 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The Board

Establishes the Cannabis Equity Board (the Board) within the Governor's office to provide equity oversight of Oregon's Cannabis industry. Establishes membership, appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the Senate, and duties of the board. Requires the Board (in conjunction with equity liaisons of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC)) to annually review and report to the Legislative Assembly on key performance indicators of equity including the qualification criteria to ensure that holders of licenses issued under this Act represent communities most negatively impacted by cannabis prohibition initiatives and that the Oregon cannabis industry continues to become more racially inclusive.

The Fund

Establishes the Cannabis Equity Fund (the Fund), separate from the General Fund, to be funded by moneys from the Oregon Marijuana Account, which receives marijuana tax revenues.

Money Allocation

Directs the Board to allocate moneys from the Fund to: (1) community programs and partners that support landownership, homeownership and income building through jobs and entrepreneurship for individuals who are American Indian, Alaska Native, Black, Hispanic or Latinx; (2) court costs incurred for orders setting aside qualifying marijuana convictions; (3) programs that support cannabis businesses owned by individuals who are American Indian, Alaska Native, Black, Hispanic or Latinx, which must be culturally competent and include technical assistance; and (4) equity liaison positions.

Provides authority to the Board, with permission from the Governor, to investigate: (1) failures to report to the Board; (2) misuse of funds distributed by the Board; and (3) complaints regarding the issuance of equity licenses.

Licenses

Directs the OLCC to issue a reduced-fee equity license to an applicant who meets certain criteria and has been convicted of a marijuana-related crime or is a member of a minority group that has experienced disproportionate arrest rates for marijuana-related crimes, and to provide application process support.

Creates requirements for issuing cannabis on-premise consumption licenses. Expands license types.

Expungement

Establishes process for automatic expungement of qualifying marijuana offenses (including arrests, citations, or convictions).

Education

Directs OHA to establish and maintain a public education program regarding marijuana.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

PRELIMINARY