

HB 3173 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/25, 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Business Development Department (Department) to develop master plan for county fairground capital construction and retain a consultant to work with each county fair board, board of directors for each fair association, and board of each fair district to identify five-year and 10-year plans for each county fairground in the state. Appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund to the Department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, for this purpose. Requires Department to report on the plan to the Legislative Assembly during the 2022 regular session. Sunsets July 1, 2023. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2021.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: Lite revenue statement issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of Oregon's fairgrounds
- Recent use of fairgrounds in wildfire displacement and vaccine dissemination
- Importance of fairgrounds to state emergency preparedness and response

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Business Development Department, commonly known as Business Oregon, is the state's economic development agency. Its mission is to invest in Oregon businesses, communities, and people to promote a globally competitive, diverse, and inclusive economy. Business Oregon supports the retention and expansion of existing Oregon businesses within traded sectors, carries out strategies to create a dynamic startup and entrepreneurial environment, and recruits companies from outside the state to fill supply chain gaps and grow existing industry clusters. It also operates infrastructure financing programs available to local municipalities for water systems, wastewater systems, port development, roads, and other infrastructure needs related to business growth and community development. Regional Development Officers serve as the starting point for communities to access the Department's infrastructure services. The Regional Development Officer and Regional Project Manager work directly with communities and their business partners to identify opportunities, address business growth and community development challenges, and manage resulting projects.

House Bill 3173 would appropriate \$250,000 to the Oregon Business Development Department to retain a consultant to develop a master plan for county fairground capital construction and direct the Department to report on the plan to the Legislative Assembly during the 2022 regular session.