

# House Bill 2727

Sponsored by Representative WITT (Presession filed.)

## 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**.

Directs Oregon Business Development Department to establish by rule program to assist certain pulp mills and paper mills and employees of such mills in finding opportunities to transfer mill ownership to employees and to convert mill operations into production and manufacturing of personal protective equipment to be sold in this state.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to the Oregon Business Development Department assistance program.

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

4 **SECTION 1. The Legislative Assembly finds that:**

5 (1) **Pulp mills and paper mills in this state are closing down in response to a decline in**  
6 **demand for paper and certain paper products.**

7 (2) **As an alternative to closing, such mills may be sold or converted from producing**  
8 **traditional paper products to producing or manufacturing other products.**

9 (3) **Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a shortage of available personal protective**  
10 **equipment necessary to adequately protect public health and safety.**

11 (4) **Opportunities exist for employees to invest in or acquire ownership of the struggling**  
12 **mills and transition mill operations into the production or manufacturing of personal pro-**  
13 **ductive equipment to be sold commercially in this state.**

14 (5) **Promoting such opportunities leads to economic growth, job creation and job re-**  
15 **tention in those regions that would otherwise be negatively impacted by the closure of a pulp**  
16 **or paper mill and simultaneously responds to the immediate needs for additional personal**  
17 **protective equipment throughout this state.**

18 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section, "personal protective equipment" includes face**  
19 **masks, gowns, drapes and disposable disinfectant wipes.**

20 (2) **The Oregon Business Development Department shall establish by rule a technical as-**  
21 **sistance program to present to pulp mills or paper mills that are at risk of insolvency or that**  
22 **are otherwise experiencing financial or economic distress and to employees of such mills**  
23 **opportunities, pathways and models by which the mill employees may:**

24 (a) **Acquire ownership of the mill; and**

25 (b) **Convert the mill's operations from paper production to the production or manufac-**  
26 **turing of personal protective equipment to be sold commercially in this state.**

27 (3) **Upon request by any of the parties described in subsection (2) of this section, the**  
28 **program shall provide the parties with:**

29 (a) **Technical assistance for navigating the requirements under local, state or federal law**  
30 **regarding the:**

**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       **(A) Sourcing of capital or financing necessary for employees to acquire ownership of a**  
2 **pulp mill or paper mill.**

3       **(B) Execution of a sales agreement.**

4       **(b) Information regarding the options available by which employees may acquire owner-**  
5 **ship of a mill, including but not limited to options such as a sale negotiated by the parties**  
6 **or an employee stock ownership plan.**

7       **(c) Advice as to whether the mill has the capacity and necessary equipment, materials,**  
8 **supplies and training to convert the mill operations from paper production to the production**  
9 **or manufacturing of personal protective equipment.**

10