

## **HB 2294 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **House Committee On Business and Labor**

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**Prepared By:** Erin Seiler, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 2/20, 3/1

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Appropriates \$20,000,000 to the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) to establish program to make grants to local service districts and local joint committees to administer firefighter apprenticeship training pilot projects. Permits BOLI to adopt rules necessary for the administration and oversight of grant recipients. Requires BOLI to report to interim committee of Legislative Assembly on effectiveness and success of pilot projects not later than December 31, 2026. Sunsets January 2, 2027.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Shortage of fire fighters in Oregon
- Barriers to recruiting, training, and hiring firefighters
- Establishment of fire fighter apprenticeship standard and registered apprenticeship program
- Success of pilot programs with Jackson County Fire District, Clackamas Fire District, and Eugene Springfield Fire Department
- Apprenticeship as tool to recruit, train, and retain a diverse fire fighter workforce
- Diversity requirements in registered apprenticeship programs
- Impact of apprentices on on-duty strength and coverage through fire district

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Apprentices learn while earning on the job under the standards approved by the Oregon State Apprenticeship and Training Council (OSATC) and under an apprenticeship agreement that is recognized by OSATC. There are over 60 approved apprenticeship programs available in Oregon, ranging from traditional skilled trades such as plumbers and electricians and newer occupations such as medical assistants and software developers.

In 2021, the Legislative Assembly allocated a total of \$6 million for three firefighter apprentice pilot programs. The pilot programs are in the Jackson County Fire District, Clackamas Fire District, and Eugene Springfield Fire Department. In September 2021, OSATC approved a fire fighter apprenticeship standard with the Oregon State Fire Council Joint Apprentice and Training Committee (JATC). Apprentices in the program must complete a total of 4,000 hours of on-the-job training in skills such as structural Fire Fighting, Pre-Fire Planning, and Fire Prevention.

House Bill 2294 allocates \$20,000,000 to the Bureau of Labor of Industries (BOLI) to expand firefighter apprenticeship pilot projects in Oregon.