

HB 2910 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 1/26, 3/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$3,500,000 to the Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) for distribution to Oregon State University Center for the Outdoor Recreation Economy and Oregon State University-Cascades to support outdoor recreation industry programs, innovation, and wildfire recovery. Allocates \$500,000 to the OBDD Industry Competitiveness Fund for matching grants to support membership organizations and business accelerators in outdoor gear and apparel industry. Requires OBDD report to interim committee of Legislative Assembly related to economic development no later than September 15, 2024, on the use of grant funds. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 replaces the distribution to the Center for the Outdoor Recreation Economy (CORE) with distribution to the Oregon State University Extension Service and then to CORE. The amendment also removes the Industry Competitiveness Fund and replaces it with the Oregon Business, Innovation and Trade Fund for the purpose of awarding matching grants to business accelerators. This amendment also removes section 6 of the bill as it was about the Industry Competitiveness Fund.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon State University (OSU) Center for the Outdoor Recreation Economy (CORE) is a partnership of OSU's Division of Extension and Engagement, the College of Forestry, and OSU-Cascades. CORE focuses on workforce development for the outdoor recreation industry. CORE works on research, program development, industry engagement, and higher education outreach.

House Bill 2910 appropriates \$3,500,000 to the Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) for distribution to CORE to support outdoor recreation industry programs, innovation, and wildfire recovery: \$2,000,000 to CORE to develop professional and workforce development programs; \$1,000,000 to CORE to develop a program helping communities economically recover from wildfires; and \$500,000 to OSU-Cascades for fabrication and maker station to support prototyping.

Business accelerators are programs accelerating the development of an idea or startup company. These programs typically provide a combination of mentoring, networking, education, and funds to help some group or cohort of growing business to develop quickly. House Bill 2910 allocates \$500,000 to the OBDD Industry Competitiveness Fund for matching grants to support membership organizations and business accelerators in outdoor gear and apparel industry. Requires OBDD report to interim committee of Legislative Assembly related to economic development no later than September 15, 2024, on the use of grant funds.