

House Bill 2908

Sponsored by Representatives GOMBERG, OWENS, SMITH G, MARSH (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**.

Appropriates moneys to Oregon Business Development Department for purpose of awarding grants to small business development centers for economic development projects.
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to an economic development grant program for small business development centers; and
3 declaring an emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1. There is appropriated to the Oregon Business Development Department, for**
6 **the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$10,000,000 for**
7 **the purpose of carrying out the provisions of section 2 of this 2023 Act.**

8 **SECTION 2. (1) The Oregon Business Development Department shall develop and imple-**
9 **ment a process for awarding grants from the moneys appropriated under section 1 of this**
10 **2023 Act to small business development centers established under ORS 285B.165 to 285B.171**
11 **for the purpose of driving economic development and expanding service to small businesses**
12 **in the respective counties or regions that the centers serve.**

13 **(2) A small business development center may apply to the department for a grant to be**
14 **used for projects that include, but are not limited to:**

15 **(a) Business incubation for targeted industries.**

16 **(b) Acquisition of equipment for enhanced distance delivery to ensure greater access to**
17 **advising services throughout rural Oregon, including, but not limited to, access for under-**
18 **represented business owners.**

19 **(c) Outreach to businesses that need support during economic recovery.**

20 **(d) Regional economic development initiatives.**

21 **(3) Grants may be awarded in amounts not to exceed \$1,000,000 per small business de-**
22 **velopment center.**

23 **(4) The department shall review all complete and timely applications and promptly notify**
24 **the applicant center whether the application has been approved or rejected. Rejection of an**
25 **application may not be appealed, but a center may reapply at any time.**

26 **(5) Each small business development center that is awarded grant moneys under this**
27 **section shall submit a report to the department within three months following receipt of the**
28 **moneys on the progress of the funded project and upon completion if it occurs later than**
29 **three months following receipt.**

30 **(6) Not later than September 15, 2024, the department shall submit a report, in the**
31 **manner provided under ORS 192.245, to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly**

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 relating to economic development, that discusses in detail the use of the grant moneys by
2 the recipient small business development centers.

3 (7) Any moneys appropriated under section 1 of this 2023 Act that remain unobligated or
4 unexpended in accordance with this section on June 30, 2025, shall be transferred to the
5 General Fund and made available for general governmental purposes.

6 SECTION 3. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
7 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect
8 on its passage.

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