

A-Engrossed
House Bill 2910

Ordered by the House March 13
Including House Amendments dated March 13

Sponsored by Representatives GOMBERG, OWENS, SMITH G, MARSH (Pre-session 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.

Appropriates moneys to Oregon Business Development Department for distribution for purposes related to outdoor recreation economy.

Allocates moneys to department for purpose of awarding matching grants to membership organizations and business accelerators in outdoor gear and apparel industry.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to the outdoor recreation economy; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. There is appropriated to the Oregon Business Development Department for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$3,500,000 for distribution in accordance with section 2 of this 2023 Act.

SECTION 2. The Oregon Business Development Department shall distribute the moneys appropriated under section 1 of this 2023 Act as follows:

(1) \$2 million to the Oregon State University Extension Service for distribution to the Center for the Outdoor Recreation Economy to be used for the purpose of developing professional and workforce development programs for the outdoor recreation economy in order to address critical and urgent skill gaps in specialized, technical and leadership roles.

(2) \$1 million to the Oregon State University Extension Service for distribution to the Center for the Outdoor Recreation Economy to be used for the purpose of developing a program to provide facilitation services and technical assistance grants to communities affected by wildfire for community engagement in the planning and construction of outdoor recreation facilities to support the communities' economic recovery. The center shall work with the Oregon State University Extension Service in developing the program under this subsection.

(3)(a) \$500,000 to Oregon State University-Cascades to outfit a fabrication and maker space at the university in order to support prototyping of new products by outdoor recreation economy entrepreneurs in rural and central Oregon.

(b) As used in this subsection, "rural" means any area in this state that is outside:

(A) The acknowledged urban growth boundaries of all cities with a population greater than 50,000; and

(B) Any urbanized area contiguous to a city described in subparagraph (A) of this para-

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 graph.

2 **SECTION 3.** There is allocated for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, from the Admin-
3 istrative Services Economic Development Fund, to the Oregon Business Development De-
4 partment, the amount of \$500,000, for deposit in the Oregon Business, Innovation and Trade
5 Fund created under ORS 285A.227, to be used for the purpose of awarding matching grants
6 under sections 4 and 5 of this 2023 Act.

7 **SECTION 4.** As used in this section and section 5 of this 2023 Act:

8 (1) “Business accelerator” means a company:

9 (a) Operating principally in this state;

10 (b) With demonstrated success in operating educational programs in which outdoor gear
11 and apparel industry veterans mentor cohorts of founders of emerging outdoor gear and ap-
12 parel industry companies located in this state; and

13 (c) Whose purpose is to help incubate and accelerate the growth of emerging companies.

14 (2) “Membership organization” means a nonprofit organization:

15 (a) Operating principally in this state;

16 (b) Consisting of member businesses from the outdoor gear and apparel industry whose
17 principal place of business is in this state; and

18 (c) That has the purpose of growing the outdoor gear and apparel industry at the state
19 or regional level.

20 (3) “Outdoor gear and apparel industry” means all traded sector businesses that manu-
21 facture gear and apparel for use in outdoor recreation.

22 (4) “Outdoor recreation” means activities undertaken for pleasure outdoors in natural
23 environments.

24 (5) “Traded sector” has the meaning given that term in ORS 285B.280.

25 **SECTION 5.** (1)(a) The Oregon Business Development Department shall use the moneys
26 allocated under section 3 of this 2023 Act to award matching grants to membership organ-
27 izations and business accelerators in accordance with this section.

28 (b) Matching grants awarded under this section must be used by the receiving member-
29 ship organizations and business accelerators for the purposes of capacity building and tech-
30 nical assistance in the outdoor gear and apparel industry.

31 (2)(a) The department shall provide public notice whenever there are funds available for
32 matching grants under this section.

33 (b) The notice must include information about the requirements for eligibility and the
34 application process for the matching grants.

35 (3)(a) A membership organization or business accelerator seeking a matching grant un-
36 der this section must file with the department an application in accordance with rules
37 adopted by the department pursuant to paragraph (c) of this subsection. The information
38 included with the application must demonstrate that the applicant is a membership organ-
39 ization or business accelerator.

40 (b) The department may charge an application fee in an amount that does not exceed the
41 actual costs incurred by the department in processing applications filed pursuant to this
42 section.

43 (c) The department shall adopt rules that establish the application process for matching
44 grants awarded under this section.

45 (4) The department may not pay the amount of a matching grant to a membership or-

1 **ganization or business accelerator unless the recipient has entered into a grant agreement**
2 **with the department that establishes the deliverables required from, and other goals to be**
3 **met by, the recipient.**

4 **SECTION 6. No later than September 15, 2024, the Oregon Business Development De-**
5 **partment shall submit, in the manner provided in ORS 192.245, a report that sets forth the**
6 **investments made pursuant to section 5 of this 2023 Act to the interim committees of the**
7 **Legislative Assembly related to economic development.**

8 **SECTION 7. Sections 4 and 5 of this 2023 Act are repealed on January 2, 2026.**

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

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