

House Bill 2910

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 **as introduced**.

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

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

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

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

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

8 (1) \$2 million to the Center for the Outdoor Recreation Economy at Oregon State Uni-
9 versity for the purpose of developing professional and workforce development programs for
10 the outdoor recreation economy in order to address critical and urgent skill gaps in special-
11 ized, technical and leadership roles.

12 (2) \$1 million to the Center for the Outdoor Recreation Economy at Oregon State Uni-
13 versity for the purpose of developing a program to provide facilitation services and technical
14 assistance grants to communities affected by wildfire for community engagement in the
15 planning and construction of outdoor recreation facilities to support the communities' eco-
16 nomic recovery. The center may work with the Oregon State University Extension Service
17 in developing the program under this subsection.

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

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

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

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

26 **SECTION 3. There is allocated for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, from the Admin-
27 istrative Services Economic Development Fund, to the Oregon Business Development De-
28 partment, the amount of \$500,000, for deposit in the Industry Competitiveness Fund
29 established under ORS 285B.290, to be used for the purpose of awarding matching grants**
30

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 under sections 4 and 5 of this 2023 Act.

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

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

4 (a) Operating principally in this state;

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

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

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

10 (a) Operating principally in this state;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

40 (4) The department may not pay the amount of a matching grant to a membership or-
41 ganization or business accelerator unless the recipient has entered into a grant agreement
42 with the department that establishes the deliverables required from, and other goals to be
43 met by, the recipient.

44 **SECTION 6.** Notwithstanding ORS 285B.290, moneys in the Industry Competitiveness
45 Fund established under ORS 285B.290 that are deposited or otherwise credited to the fund for

1 the purpose of awarding grants under sections 4 and 5 of this 2023 Act are allocated to the
2 department for such purpose and may not be used for any other purpose.

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

7 SECTION 8. Sections 4 to 6 of this 2023 Act are repealed on January 2, 2026.

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

11