

House Bill 4041

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Economic Development and Small Business for Dave Tovey, Nixyaawii Community Financial Services, James Parker, Northwest Native Chamber)

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**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act funds and updates the equity grant program. (Flesch Readability Score: 75.5).

Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Oregon Business Development Department to be used for the Economic Equity Investment Program. Includes membership in, or descent from a member of, a state or federally recognized Indian tribe as an economic equity risk factor. Authorizes grant recipients to allocate grant moneys to any entity lawfully organized and operating under state law. Requires the department, during the rulemaking process, to consult the persons and communities most likely to be affected by the program.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to economic equity investment; creating new provisions; amending ORS 285B.760 and
3 285B.761; and 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 ending June 30, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$30,000,000 for**
7 **deposit in the Economic Equity Investment Fund established under ORS 285B.763, to be used**
8 **for any purpose for which moneys in the fund may be used.**

9 **SECTION 2. ORS 285B.760 is amended to read:**

10 285B.760. As used in ORS 285B.760 to 285B.763:

11 (1) "Culturally responsive services" means services provided by an organization:

12 (a) Whose founding mission and goals are aligned with the culture of the individuals, families,
13 businesses and communities receiving the services; and

14 (b) That demonstrates intimate knowledge of the lived experience of the individuals, families,
15 businesses and communities receiving the services.

16 (2) "Economic equity risk factor" means:

17 (a) Experience of discrimination because of race or ethnicity;

18 **(b) Enrollment as a member of a state or federally recognized Indian tribe, or proof, ac-**
19 **ceptable to a grantee organization, of descent from a parent or grandparent who is or was**
20 **an enrolled member of a state or federally recognized Indian tribe;**

21 *[(b)] (c) English language proficiency;*

22 *[(c)] (d) Citizenship status;*

23 *[(d)] (e) Socioeconomic status; or*

24 *[(e)] (f) Residence or operation in a rural location.*

25 **SECTION 3. The amendments to ORS 285B.760 by section 2 of this 2024 Act apply to**
26 **grants awarded before, on or after the effective date of this 2024 Act.**

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 **SECTION 4.** ORS 285B.761 is amended to read:

2 285B.761. (1) The Oregon Business Development Department shall develop and implement an
3 Economic Equity Investment Program under which the department shall award grants to organiza-
4 tions that provide culturally responsive services to support economic stability, self-sufficiency,
5 wealth building and economic equity among disadvantaged individuals, families, businesses and
6 communities in this state.

7 (2)(a) The department shall prescribe the form and manner in which an organization may apply
8 for a grant under the program.

9 (b) An organization's application must demonstrate a proven ability to provide services as de-
10 scribed in subsection (3) of this section.

11 (3) Grant moneys shall be awarded to organizations only for proposals to provide outreach,
12 support and resources to individuals, families, businesses or communities whose future is at risk
13 because of any combination of two or more economic equity risk factors in order to improve eco-
14 nomic equity as measured by:

15 (a) Ownership of land, principal residences and other real property;

16 (b) Entrepreneurship;

17 (c) Business development;

18 (d) Workforce development; and

19 (e) Intergenerational wealth building, such as savings, investments and real property equity.

20 **(4) Organizations awarded grant moneys under this section may allocate the moneys to**
21 **any entity that is lawfully organized and operating under state law.**

22 [(4)] **(5)** Upon request, the department shall provide technical assistance to organizations that
23 receive grant moneys under the program and may consult with an organization about the
24 organization's needs to maintain capacity to carry out the proposal for which the grant moneys were
25 awarded.

26 **(6)(a) The department may adopt rules for purposes of this section.**

27 **(b) During any rulemaking process, the department shall consult with persons and com-**
28 **munities most likely to be affected by this section.**

29 **SECTION 5. This 2024 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
30 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2024 Act takes effect**
31 **on its passage.**

32