

HB 2304 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/5, 3/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure provides funding for a county fairground capital construction master plan and for the Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center to be used as a regional emergency and evacuee center. It declares an emergency and is effective on passage.

Detailed Summary:

Adjusts the allocation to the County Fair Account from one percent to nine-tenths of one percent of net proceeds from the Oregon State Lottery. Allocates the remaining one-tenth of one percent to the State Fair Council. Removes the annual limit of \$1.53 million from the amount allocated to the County Fair Account.

Appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund for Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) to develop a county fairground capital construction master plan. Requires five and ten-year plans for each county fairground in the state, and any findings or recommendations regarding county fairground capital construction. Directs OBDD to retain a consultant to help develop the master plan. The consultant will work with each county fair board, each fair association's board of directors, and each fair district's board to identify capital construction needs. Planning requirements sunset on July 1, 2027.

Authorizes the State Treasurer to issue Article XI-Q bonds in an amount that produces \$20,838,690 in net proceeds. Requires that bonds are transferred to the Department of Administrative Services to allow the Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center to be used as a regional emergency and evacuee center.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

- *FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement issued yet.*
- *REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement issued yet.*

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Relation to other county fairgrounds bills
- Use of county fairgrounds
- Accessibility upgrades needed at fairground facilities

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 The amendment appropriates \$2,500,000 to the Union County Fair Association for water and sewer improvements to the Union County Fairgrounds.

BACKGROUND:

The County Fair Account was established in 1969 and provides funding for county fairgrounds located throughout the state. Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) has provided grants for capital improvement projects to county fairground facilities in past legislative sessions, including \$10 million in lottery bond funding between 2019 and 2021. The State Fair Council oversees the Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center. Located in

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Salem, the center hosts Oregon's annual state fair and provides a venue for meetings, concerts, trade shows and other events.

Currently, the County Fair Account is allocated one percent of net proceeds from the Oregon State Lottery, not to exceed \$1.53 million annually. House Bill 2304 removes this annual limit. It changes the allocation to the County Fair Account to nine-tenths of one percent and allocates the remaining one-tenth of one percent to the State Fair Council. The measure also appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund for OBDD to develop a county fairground capital construction master plan. Lastly, it provides funding for the Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center to be used as a regional emergency and evacuee center. The -1 amendment appropriates \$2,500,000 to the Union County Fair Association for water and sewer improvements to the Union County Fairgrounds.