

HB 2756 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

Action Date: 03/19/25

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Diehl, Dobson, Isadore, Lively, Nguyen D, Osborne, Skarlatos, Watanabe, Yunker

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Mary Mackie, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/26, 3/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates \$500,000 to Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) to establish Oregon-Taiwan Trade Center and Oregon-Vietnam Trade Center.

Detailed Summary:

Directs Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) to establish the Oregon-Taiwan Trade Center and the Oregon-Vietnam Trade Center. Allows OBDD to establish additional offices in Taiwan or Vietnam to foster economic development and expand trade. Allows OBDD to establish up to five additional trade centers or offices in countries they determine are critical commercial partners. Appropriates \$500,000 for OBDD to establish a designated fund to support each trade center's strategic priorities.

Requires staff at the trade center include a director, a representative from the Oregon Department of Agriculture, someone from OBDD with international trade expertise, a recruiter from a public university in Oregon, a person with expertise in manufacturing, a person with expertise in emergency management, and other staff necessary to support operations.

Directs OBDD to study how to reorganize the staff structure in Oregon and at the trade centers in order to foster economic relations and trade expansion. Directs OBDD to collaborate with appointees, including two members of the Senate, two members of the House, and subject matter experts appointed by the Governor. Directs OBDD to submit a report by September 15, 2026. Reporting requirement sunsets on January 2, 2027.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Inclusion of emergency management personnel
- Funding included in the measure and future funding
- Key targeted industries in Taiwan and Vietnam
- Funding for similar programs in the Governor's budget
- Agency capacity to implement the program

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment allows OBDD to establish up to five additional trade centers or offices in countries they determine are critical commercial partners. It also corrects a typo in the measure.

BACKGROUND:

States use overseas trade centers to help businesses navigate international trade. They can help companies export products and can attract foreign investment. According to the [U.S. Department of State](#), despite the lack of formal diplomatic relations, Taiwan is an important U.S. partner in trade and investment, specifically relating to

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semiconductors and other critical supply chains. There has recently been increased interest in the Taiwanese market at the state level, with 12 states setting up operations there since 2019, according to the [Global Taiwan Institute](#). The U.S. and Vietnam meet regularly on trade and investment issues, and U.S. goods traded with Vietnam totaled an estimated \$149.6 billion in 2024 according to the [Office of the United States Trade Representative](#). Vietnam is Oregon's eighth largest export market, mainly due to Vietnam's significant manufacturing sector.

House Bill 2756 A appropriates \$500,000 to the Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) to establish the Oregon-Taiwan Trade Center and the Oregon-Vietnam Trade Center.