Seventy-Seventh Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2013 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

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Date:	4/10/2013

# **Measure Description:**

Establishes Oregon Task Force on Economic Development.

# Government Unit(s) Affected:

Business Development Department (Business Oregon), Legislative Assembly

# Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

# Analysis:

House Bill 2765 establishes the nine-member Oregon Task Force on Economic Development charged with studying and making recommendations to expand Oregon's economy and opportunities for economic development. The task force is required to report to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly by October 1, 2014. The task force sunsets on the convening of the 2015 Legislative Assembly. The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect on passage.

# Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD/Business Oregon)

The fiscal impact of this bill on the Oregon Business Development Department is indeterminate. The Oregon Business Development Department is required to provide staffing and reimbursement expenses to the five members of the task force who are not legislators. The bill allows the task force to specify the times and places of the meetings. The bill also allows the task force to hold hearings and take testimony. This fiscal assumes OBDD will use existing resources, and reprioritize duties and responsibilities of existing staff to support the task force. However, the Legislative Fiscal Office notes that if the support requirements exceed expectations, OBDD may need to return to the Emergency Board or Legislative Assembly to seek additional funding and position authority in the event that reprioritization of duties and responsibilities of existing staff is not feasible.

## Legislative Assembly

The fiscal impact of this bill on the Legislative Assembly is indeterminate depending on the number and geographic location of meetings. The task force will have four legislative members, and legislative members are allowed per diem and reimbursement of expenses. The bill allows the task force to specify the times and places of the meetings. As a point of reference, Legislative Administration offers the following information: The average cost per legislator for attendance at interim committee or task force meetings is \$183 per day. This amount includes the Federal Insurance Contribution Act (FICA) tax, and assumes per diem remains at the \$123 per day rate, and the average mileage of 90 miles at the current rate of \$0.565 per mile. With four legislative members, the total cost per task force meeting could average an additional \$732. Although the 2013-15 Legislative Branch budget contains funds allocated for previously anticipated legislator expenses for participation in interim committee and task force meetings, based on current budget projections, the Legislative Assembly does not have excess funding for additional reimbursements. Furthermore, if the meetings of the task force do not coincide with scheduled Legislative Days, or if the cumulative enactment of other legislation with interim committees and task forces exceeds expenditure levels beyond those assumed in the 2013-15 budget, additional General Fund resources may be required.