

HB 2933 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Housing

Prepared By: C. Ross, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 4/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Includes workforce housing as part of "workforce development" activity of Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Board. Authorizes the Oregon Business Development Department to contract administration of Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Board Fund. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 2012 (2017) established the Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Board (the Board), a seven-member board appointed by the Governor to develop and implement strategies to improve regional economic health near the border with Idaho and to administer loans or grants in support of same. The region is defined as any territory within 20 miles of the border, including primarily the cities of Ontario, Vale, Nyssa, Willowcreek, Brogan, and areas southwest of Vale. The Board reports its recommendations to the Legislature annually, concerning workforce education and training, competitive disadvantages, private/public partnerships, and other items it identifies to promote regional economic health.

According to the Board's annual report in 2018, its list of funding priorities includes projects or programs that: improve competitiveness with Idaho, increase the Region's residential property tax base, enhance economic vitality and opportunity, enhance or expand workforce development and growth, expand transportation infrastructure, develop regionally significant industrial sites, extend private utilities to regionally significant industrial sites, and provide support services and technical assistance to entrepreneurs and business owners in the region.

House Bill 2933 includes development of residential housing that is necessary to attract and retain the region's workforce, to the Board's workforce development activities. The measure also authorizes Business Oregon to enter into intergovernmental agreements to administer funds.

Unanimous out of House committee and off the House floor.