HB 2820   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Economic Recovery and Prosperity

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Sub-Referral To:	Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Meeting Dates:	2/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Prosperity 1,000 Pilot Program to provide career coaching, occupational training, and job placement services for at least 1,000 low-income job seekers who reside in areas of concentrated poverty. Establishes goals and parameters for program, including populations served, percent who complete the program, and percent who obtain employment. Identifies local workforce development boards to administer program and Department of Human Services to refer program participants, seek federal reimbursement for 50 percent of program costs, and to report annually to Legislative Assembly. Requires Department and local boards to establish steering committee for purpose of program oversight and coordination. Appropriates $5 million fromGeneral Fund to Department to distribute, in consultation with State Workforce and Talent Development Board, to local boards to implement program. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2021.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) is a federal program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that supports employment and training activities for individuals and families who are receiving SNAP food benefits. SNAP E&T provides the flexibility to combine education, training, and support services for low-income and low-skilled people. Program funds are typically used to train participants for skilled jobs that are in demand in their local labor markets. In addition to receiving formula-based SNAP E&T program grants, states may request additional reimbursement grants such as SNAP 50/50 for innovative direct program expenses and wrap-around support services. State, local, or philanthropic sources must fund fifty percent of the total cost in order to be eligible for fifty percent federal reimbursement. In Oregon, the SNAP Program is administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS).

The Oregon workforce development system refers to the group of state agencies, local workforce development boards, and community-based organizations in Oregon that provide job placement and training for youth and adults, and employment-related services for veterans, people with disabilities, migrant farm workers, limited English speakers, and other Oregonians in need of special assistance. The system also serves employers by providing job listings, applicant testing and screening, and labor market information. The State Workforce and Talent Development Board (WTDB) convenes system agencies and stakeholders, provides oversight to the system, and promotes the alignment and integration of services and resources to provide effective solutions to businesses and individuals for their workforce needs. Oregon has nine business-led local workforce development boards that develop strategic plans, convene and align stakeholders, identify strategies by industry sector, and oversee workforce development services in their area.

The Prosperity 1,000 Pilot Program was proposed in similar form in 2017 (House Bill 2531), 2018 (House Bill 4042), and 2019 (House Bill 2310).

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

House Bill 2820 establishes the Prosperity 1,000 Pilot Program to provide career coaching, occupational training, and job placement services for at least 1,000 low-income job seekers who reside in areas of concentrated poverty. Under the measure's provisions, local workforce development boards will administer the program and DHS will refer program participants, seek federal reimbursement for 50 percent of program costs, and report annually to the Legislative Assembly. DHS and local boards will establish a steering committee to oversee and coordinate the program. The measure appropriates $5 million in General Fund moneys to DHS to distribute, in consultation with the WTDB, to local boards to implement the program.