



MEMORANDUM

Prepared for: Oregon State Senate
Date: February 23, 2021
By: Leslie Porter, Analyst
Re: Legislative Review of Executive Appointments

LPRO: LEGISLATIVE POLICY AND RESEARCH OFFICE

DIRECTOR OF THE OREGON BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Governor has appointed the following individual to serve as the Director of the Oregon Business Development Department subject to Senate confirmation.¹

Appointee

Sophorn Cheang of Happy Valley; Appointment

Term

March 1, 2021; serves at the pleasure of the Governor.

Appointment/Confirmation Authority

[ORS 285A.070 \(2019\)](#)

Statement of Economic Interest²

Not required.

Statutory Requirements³

The director is appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the Senate.⁴ The director serves at the pleasure of the Governor.

Duties and Authority

The Oregon Business Development Department is the state's economic development agency. The director is the administrative head of the department and is responsible for administering the laws relating to economic development, subject to policy direction by the Oregon Business Development Commission.⁵

The director must:⁶

- serve as an ex officio member of any advisory or technical committees established by the commission;

¹ [Or. Const. art. III sect. 4](#), [ORS 171.562 \(2019\)](#), [ORS 171.565 \(2019\)](#).

² [ORS 244.050 \(2019\)](#).

³ [ORS 182.100 \(2019\)](#) for affirmative action policy and [ORS 236.115 \(2019\)](#) for diversity criteria.

⁴ [ORS 657.608 \(2019\)](#).

⁵ [ORS 285A.070 \(2019\)](#).

⁶ [ORS 285A.060 to 285A.696 \(2019\)](#), [284.594 to 284.883 \(2019\)](#), [285B.551 \(2019\)](#), and [285C.549 \(2019\)](#).

- prescribe rules for the government of the department, the conduct of its employees, the assignment and performance of its business, and the custody, use and preservation of its records, papers and property, based on best managerial practices as determined by the director and in a manner consistent with applicable law;
- organize the department in whatever manner the director considers necessary to conduct the work of the department efficiently and effectively, subject to approval by the commission;
- upon consultation with and the approval of the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority Board, appoint an administrator of the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority who serves at the pleasure of the director;
- provide for economic innovation coordination in the central office, which shall assist the field representatives in establishing contacts between local businesses and universities and community colleges in Oregon to promote the use of the research capacities of these institutions for development of new products;
- act as the representative of the commission in specified matters;
- appoint members to specified committees;
- serve as a member of the Oregon Innovation Council and an ex officio member of the Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Board and the Oregon Growth Board; and
- adopt rules for the operation of programs administered by the department.

The director may:⁷

- appoint all subordinate officers and employees of the department and may prescribe their duties, assignments, and reassignments;
- delegate the exercise or discharge of any power, duty or function that is vested in or imposed by law upon the director to any department employee for the purpose of conducting an official act in the name of the director;
- require a fidelity bond of any officer or employee of the department who has charge of, handles, or has access to any state money or property;
- adopt rules for the operation of programs administered by the department;
- approve specified loans; and
- grant specified waivers of program requirements.

⁷ [ORS 285A.070 to 285A.108 \(2019\)](#), [285B.130 \(2019\)](#), [285C.215 \(2019\)](#).