

**HB 2727 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management**

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**Prepared By:** Cassie Passon, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 3/16

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Directs Oregon Business Development Department to establish by rule a program to assist pulp mills and paper mills and employees of such mills, which are at risk of insolvency or are experiencing financial or economic distress, in finding opportunities and pathways to transfer mill ownership to employees and to convert mill operations into production and manufacturing of personal protective equipment to be sold commercially in Oregon.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Pulp mills are facilities where fibrous materials such as wood chips, waste paper, wheat straw, or hemp are manufactured into fiber board, which can then be sent to paper mills for further refining into paper products. Since 2009 several paper mills in Oregon have closed, including those located in Oregon City, Newberg, and Albany. Some, like the mills in West Linn and Halsey, have been able to reopen after brief closures.

House Bill 2727 directs Oregon Business Development Department to establish a program to assist certain pulp mills and paper mills and employees of such mills, to transfer mill ownership to employees and to convert mill to manufacturing personal protective equipment.