

## **HB 2026 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **House Committee On Business and Labor**

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**Prepared By:** Jan Nordlund, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/24, 3/31

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires public employers to give preference to residents of Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region for civil service position if majority of work will be performed within the region. Requires public employer to appoint an otherwise qualified resident applicant to the position if the results of the resident applicant's examination, when combined with their preference, are equal to or higher than that of nonresident applicants. Requires public employer to provide, upon request, written explanation of decision not to appoint resident applicant. Establishes that violation of the provisions of this Act are an unlawful employment practice. Allows resident applicant aggrieved by a violation may file a complaint with the Bureau of Labor and Industries. Applies to any hiring process that begins on or after the effective date. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- History of Border Region and its stagnant economy
- Resident preferences modeled after veteran preferences
- Proposal to expand available land for housing development
- Proposal to incentivize home building
- Efforts to improve social fabric of Border Region
- Example of situation: 75 percent of employees of Snake River Correctional Institution live in Idaho

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-1 Changes "preference points" to "percentage points"

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region (Region) was established through legislation enacted in 2017 (House Bill 2012) to allow the associated Board to make grants and loans supporting economic and workforce development in the Region. The Region is comprised of the area within 20 miles of the border with Idaho that includes Ontario, Vale, and Nyssa; an area across the border from Weiser, Idaho; Brogan and Willow Creek; and an area southwest of Vale for a distance of ten miles.

House Bill 2026 requires public employers to give preference to residents of the Region when hiring or promoting for a civil position when the majority of the work will be performed within the Region.