

HB 2373 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Business and Labor

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/1, 3/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates from the General Fund an undetermined amount to the Bureau of Labor and Industries for the purpose of establishing a firefighter apprenticeship program. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Existing pathways to become firefighter
- Standard apprenticeship model includes industry standards, classroom training, and paid supervised on-the-job training
- Lack of diversity among firefighters
- Whether funding will be available for ongoing operating of apprenticeship program

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The policy of the State of Oregon regarding apprenticeships is stated in ORS 660.002 and it includes ensuring the proper training of an adequate, skilled labor force to ensure the continued growth and development of the economy. Apprentices learn while earning on the job under the standards approved by the State Apprenticeship and Training Council and under an apprenticeship agreement that is recognized by the Council. There are approximately 60 approved apprenticeship programs available in Oregon, ranging from traditional skilled trades such as plumbers and electricians and newer occupations such as medical assistants and software developers. According to the Bureau of Labor and Industries, there are currently more than 10,000 registered apprentices.

House Bill 2373 appropriates from the General Fund an undetermined amount to the Bureau of Labor and Industries for the purpose of establishing a firefighter apprenticeship program.