

**A-Engrossed**  
**Senate Bill 623**

Ordered by the Senate April 19  
Including Senate Amendments dated April 19

Sponsored by Senator FREDERICK, Representative REARDON; Senators FINDLEY, GOLDEN, KENNEMER (at the request of Oregon Workforce Partnership) (Pre-session filed.)

**SUMMARY**

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

*[Requires local workforce development boards to evaluate programs administered by state workforce agencies through WorkSource Oregon system. Requires agencies to provide boards with information for performance evaluation.]*

*[Requires annual report to Legislative Assembly and Governor listing all programs delivered through WorkSource Oregon and identifying program problems and potential solutions.]*

*[Requires state workforce agencies to annually provide to each local workforce development board information on amount of fund availability and services provided by agencies in each local workforce development area. Requires agencies to also provide to boards quarterly expenditure and performance information for each workforce program delivered by agency through WorkSource Oregon.]*

*[Requires state workforce agencies to implement all recommendations made by local workforce development board during program evaluation, unless recommendation is prohibited by federal or state law.]*

*[Requires Governor to collaborate with members of Legislative Assembly to establish funding formula to support WorkSource Oregon evaluation.]*

*[Authorizes Higher Education Coordinating Commission to provide grants to local workforce development boards for paid work experiences for youth.]*

*[Authorizes commission to establish pilot programs to provide grants to local workforce development boards to work with organizations to enhance adult learning.]*

*[Requires State Workforce and Talent Development Board to convene representatives from state workforce agencies and local workforce development boards to identify program and system changes to support individuals and business most impacted by COVID-19 pandemic and 2020 wildfire disasters. Requires report on findings to be submitted to Governor and Legislative Assembly within 45 days of effective date of Act.]*

**Directs State Workforce and Talent Development Board to establish Committee for Continuous Improvement to assess effectiveness of Oregon's public workforce development system. Requires committee to identify and contract with independent third-party entity to conduct assessment and develop recommendations prioritizing needs of individuals and businesses most impacted by COVID-19 pandemic, no later than September 30, 2021. Sets forth requirements for developing recommendations. Requires committee to submit to State Workforce and Talent Development Board report that includes results of assessment and recommendations. Directs board to approve report and submit copy of report to Governor and interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to workforce development, no later than 45 days after receipt of report.**

**Requires that, once every even-numbered year, Committee for Continuous Improvement identify and contract with independent third-party entity to conduct comprehensive assessment of Oregon's public workforce system and make recommendations for improvements. Establishes requirements for comprehensive assessment. Requires committee to present results of each assessment, along with recommendations for improvements, in reports to Governor and interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to workforce development, on or before December 15 of each even-numbered year. Requires committee to include in first report submitted to Governor and committees of Legislative Assembly update regarding implementation of recommendations from initial assessment.**

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

1

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

2

Relating to workforce development; and declaring an emergency.

3

**Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1       **SECTION 1.** Sections 2 to 4 of this 2021 Act are added to and made a part of ORS 660.300  
2 to 660.364.

3       **SECTION 2.** The State Workforce and Talent Development Board shall, in consultation  
4 with state workforce agencies and local workforce development boards, establish the Com-  
5 mittee for Continuous Improvement to assess the effectiveness of the public workforce de-  
6 velopment system in this state. The State Workforce and Talent Development Board and  
7 local workforce development boards shall jointly appoint members to the committee.

8       **SECTION 3.** (1) No later than September 30, 2021, the Committee for Continuous Im-  
9 provement, established under section 2 of this 2021 Act, shall identify and contract with an  
10 independent third-party entity to conduct an assessment of the public workforce system in  
11 this state and to develop recommendations to ensure that the needs of individuals and busi-  
12 nesses most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are prioritized and effectively served by the  
13 public workforce system.

14       (2) To develop the recommendations described in subsection (1) of this section, the as-  
15 sessment shall:

16       (a) Incorporate input from interested stakeholders including, but not limited to individ-  
17 uals who represent:

18       (A) Community-based organizations with a focus and expertise on serving disenfranchised  
19 communities.

20       (B) Black, Indigenous and People of Color communities.

21       (C) Individuals with differing abilities.

22       (D) Women.

23       (E) Immigrants.

24       (F) Rural communities.

25       (G) Low-skilled adults.

26       (H) Younger workers.

27       (I) State agencies.

28       (J) Labor organizations.

29       (K) Education providers.

30       (L) Apprenticeship and preapprenticeship organizations.

31       (M) Local businesses.

32       (b) Focus on:

33       (A) Identifying and eliminating barriers that impede access to workforce programs and  
34 services by individuals and businesses most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

35       (B) Improving employment experiences and access to workforce programs for job seekers  
36 in disenfranchised communities.

37       (C) Improving alignment between state agencies and nonprofit organizations that provide  
38 culturally specific and wraparound services.

39       (3) Upon completion of the assessment described in this section, the committee shall  
40 submit to the State Workforce and Talent Development Board a report that includes the  
41 results of the assessment and the recommendations developed by the third-party entity un-  
42 der subsection (2) of this section. Not later than 45 days after receiving the report, the board  
43 shall approve the report and submit a copy of the report to the Governor and the interim  
44 committees of the Legislative Assembly related to workforce development, in the manner  
45 provided in ORS 192.245.

1       **SECTION 4.** (1) Once every even-numbered year, the Committee for Continuous Im-  
2       **provement** established under section 2 of this 2021 Act shall identify and contract with an  
3       **independent third-party entity** to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the public  
4       **workforce system** in this state and to make recommendations for improvements.

5       (2) The comprehensive assessment shall include a review of the workforce programs and  
6       **services administered** by the following entities through the public workforce system:

- 7       (a) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission;
- 8       (b) Local workforce development boards;
- 9       (c) The Employment Department;
- 10       (d) The Commission for the Blind;
- 11       (e) The Department of Human Services;
- 12       (f) The Housing and Community Services Department; and
- 13       (g) Any other entities deemed appropriate by the committee.

14       (3) The comprehensive assessment shall be conducted with a focus on:

- 15       (a) Advancing racial justice, equity, diversity and inclusion through the programs and  
16       **services delivered** through the public workforce system;
- 17       (b) Aligning state and local efforts to improve the public workforce system in this state;
- 18       (c) Supporting improvements that create a more comprehensive public workforce system;
- 19       (d) Providing quality employment experiences and equitable outcomes for job seekers and  
20       **businesses participating** in workforce programs;
- 21       (e) Improving the quality of workforce resources, programs and services made available  
22       **through the public workforce system** and the transparency of information regarding per-  
23       **formance metrics and outcomes** related to those resources, programs and services; and
- 24       (f) Building on any current workforce program assessments that are required by law.

25       (4)(a) The committee shall present the results of each assessment, along with any rec-  
26       **ommendations for improvements**, in reports to the Governor and to the interim committees  
27       **of the Legislative Assembly** related to workforce development, in the manner provided under  
28       **ORS 192.245**, on or before December 15 of each even-numbered year.

29       (b) The committee shall include in the committee's first report, an update regarding the  
30       **implementation of the recommendations** from the assessment of the public workforce system  
31       **conducted under section 3** of this 2021 Act.

32       **SECTION 5.** This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
33       **peace, health and safety**, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect  
34       **on its passage.**