

## **HB 2839 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business**

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**Prepared By:** Andrew Hendrie, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 2/7

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

Directs Oregon Tourism Commission (Travel Oregon) to identify, designate, and monitor tourism districts in this state. Allows tourism district to apply to Travel Oregon for assistance in obtaining grants from Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) for community development and from Department of Transportation for community transit investments. Allows tourism district to request assistance from Travel Oregon in applying for and obtaining temporary waivers of land use and building code requirements and regulations of public entities. Authorizes Travel Oregon to identify and designate tourism and recreation activity that is live performance as priority tourism and recreation activity not subject to crime of unlawful recording of live performance.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

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

No amendment.

##### **BACKGROUND:**

The Oregon Tourism Commission (Travel Oregon) is a semi-independent state agency. Travel Oregon is a destination management organization. They focus on driving demand for travel and optimizing the economic impact of tourism to the state's economy.

House Bill 2839 directs Oregon Tourism Commission (Travel Oregon) to identify, designate and monitor tourism districts in this state. Tourism districts will be designated based on criteria including but not limited to geography, existing cooperative strategies, ability to work on regional projects, and willingness to make annual reports to Travel Oregon. A tourism district may apply to Travel Oregon for assistance in obtaining grants from Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) for community development and from Department of Transportation (ODOT) for community transit investments. Grants may be used for strategic objectives of the tourism district, intracommunity transit, and routes to and from designated sites.