

HB 3317 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

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Meeting Dates: 3/23, 3/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Wallowa Rural and Recreational Economic Development Board (Board) to focus on workforce development, workforce housing, and economic development and to make grants or loans related to workforce development, workforce housing, and economic development. Establishes Wallowa Rural and Recreational Economic Development Board Fund. Appropriates \$5 million to Wallowa Rural and Recreational Economic Development Board Fund. Board will have seven voting members and one nonvoting member. Creates a process to rezone and partition lands that are zones for resource use. Board will provide report to appropriate interim committee of Legislative Assembly before September 15, 2026. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 3317 establishes the Wallowa Rural and Recreational Economic Development Board (Board) to focus on workforce development, workforce housing, and economic development and to make grants or loans related to workforce development, workforce housing, and economic development.

The Board will be comprised of eight members, seven voting members appointed by the Governor will appoint seven members from a list provided by local governing bodies in the region and the Director of the Oregon Business Development Department or a designee, as a nonvoting member.

The Board will identify policy and strategies to: promote workforce and economic growth; to facilitate, develop or prevent the decline of regionally significant industrial sites; promote viable workforce housing solutions; create or maintain jobs in the Wallowa Rural and Recreational Economic Development Region; and improve access to education and training. The Board may use funds from Wallowa Rural and Recreational Economic Development Board Fund to make grants and loans to qualified applicants; to facilitate collaboration among local governments and stake holders and consult with affected school districts, community colleges, and universities.

The measure creates a process to rezone and partition lands that are zoned for resource use, within the Wallowa Rural and Recreational Economic Development Region. The measure also allows Wallowa County to establish a review board appointed by the governing body of the county.