

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

HB 2649

Relating to workforce requirements

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Gomberg

House Bill 2649 expands the apprenticeship utilization requirement for public improvement projects in Oregon. It includes the Oregon Department of Transportation, Higher Education Coordinating Commission, public universities, and community college districts that use public funds for construction costs. The bill mandates that contractors establish outreach plans for women, minorities, and veterans, and report information on apprentice utilization and diversity goals to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services. Non-compliant contractors may face penalties, with the collected funds going towards expanding apprentice training programs. Additionally, the bill increases the apprentice utilization requirement from 12 to 15 percent of all work hours on public improvement projects starting from January 1, 2025.

The Bureau of Labor and Industries will hire one permanent full-time Procurement and Contracts Specialist 2 to perform rulemaking, coordinate with agencies, analyze contracts, and report to the legislature. One-time funding of \$65,000 is also allocated to set up a database for project data and reporting.

The -A4 amendment adds \$258,239 in General Fund appropriation to support the measure's fiscal impact, which includes the cost of one permanent position.

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee has returned HB 2649 to the Full Committee without recommendation as to passage.