

HB 2304 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

Action Date: 04/02/25

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 7-0-2-0

Yeas: 7 - Diehl, Dobson, Isadore, Lively, Osborne, Skarlatos, Yunker

Exc: 2 - Nguyen D, Watanabe

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

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Meeting Dates: 3/5, 4/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure provides funding for a county fairground capital construction master plan, for the Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center to be used as a regional emergency and evacuee center, and for water and sewer improvements to the Union County Fairgrounds. It removes the annual limit on funding allocated to the County Fair Account. It declares an emergency and is effective on passage.

Detailed Summary:

Adjusts the allocation to the County Fair Account from one percent to nine-tenths of one percent of net proceeds from the Oregon State Lottery. Allocates the remaining one-tenth of one percent to the State Fair Council. Removes the annual limit of \$1.53 million from the amount allocated to the County Fair Account.

Appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund for Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) to develop a county fairground capital construction master plan. Requires five and ten-year plans for each county fairground in the state, and any findings or recommendations regarding county fairground capital construction. Directs OBDD to retain a consultant to help develop the master plan. Requires the consultant to work with each county fair board, each fair association's board of directors, and each fair district's board to identify capital construction needs. Planning requirements sunset on July 1, 2027.

Authorizes the State Treasurer to issue Article XI-Q bonds in an amount that produces \$20,838,690 in net proceeds. Requires that bonds are transferred to the Department of Administrative Services to allow the Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center to be used as a regional emergency and evacuee center.

Appropriates \$2,500,000 to the Union County Fair Association for water and sewer improvements to the Union County Fairgrounds.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Relation to other county fairgrounds bills
- Use of county fairgrounds
- Accessibility upgrades needed at fairground facilities

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment appropriates \$2,500,000 to the Union County Fair Association for water and sewer improvements to the Union County Fairgrounds.

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BACKGROUND:

The County Fair Account was established in 1969 and provides funding for county fairgrounds located throughout the state. Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) has provided grants for capital improvement projects to county fairground facilities in past legislative sessions, including \$10 million in lottery bond funding between 2019 and 2021. The State Fair Council oversees the Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center. Located in Salem, the center hosts Oregon's annual state fair and provides a venue for meetings, concerts, trade shows and other events. The Union County Wastewater Project is a planned water and sewer line expansion of the Union County Fairgrounds. The project would connect the fairgrounds to the City of La Grande's water and septic system and construct new indoor restroom facilities at the fairgrounds, among other improvements.

Currently, the County Fair Account is allocated one percent of net proceeds from the Oregon State Lottery, not to exceed \$1.53 million annually. House Bill 2304 A removes this annual limit. It changes the allocation to the County Fair Account to nine-tenths of one percent and allocates the remaining one-tenth of one percent to the State Fair Council. It provides funding for a county fairground capital construction master plan, for the Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center, and for water and sewer improvements to the Union County Fairgrounds.