

# House Bill 3113

Sponsored by Representatives OWENS, HELM (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 **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act would set up a post in the Regional Solutions Program to help communities get state and federal funds. The Act would allocate lottery funds to be used to match federal funds. (Flesch Readability Score: 64.4).

Creates a state and federal grants coordinator position in the Regional Solutions Program. Directs the coordinator to identify barriers that communities face in applying for and managing state and federal funding. Allocates lottery funds to provide matches for federal funds available through the Federal Readiness and Leverage Fund.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to access to funding; creating new provisions; amending ORS 284.753 and 284.754; and de-  
3 claring an emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 284.754 is amended to read:

6 284.754. (1)(a) The Regional Solutions Program is established within the office of the Governor,  
7 in collaboration with state agencies[.].

8 (b) [*consisting*] **The program shall consist of:**

9 (A) Regional solutions centers described in subsection (2) of this section[.];

10 (B) Regional solutions teams described in subsection (3) of this section; [*and*]

11 (C) Regional solutions advisory committees described in subsection (4) of this section; **and**

12 (D) **A state and federal grants coordinator described in subsection (5) of this section.**

13 (c) The program shall work with state agencies, local governments, public and private entities,  
14 philanthropic organizations and academic institutions, as appropriate, to:

15 (A) Develop and coordinate regional implementation projects[.];

16 (B) Identify regional priorities for community and economic development[.];

17 (C) **Remove barriers and increase access to state and federal funding programs;**

18 (D) Address issues; and

19 (E) Seize opportunities.

20 (2) The Regional Solutions Program [*includes*] **shall include** regional solutions centers located  
21 throughout this state. The centers **shall** provide a physical location for, and serve as the primary  
22 place for the business and operations of, the regional solutions teams and the regional solutions  
23 advisory committees.

24 (3)(a) Each regional solutions team shall include a regional solutions coordinator and staff.

25 (b) Staff may include, but is not limited to, employees and representatives of the following state  
26 agencies:

27 (A) The Department of Environmental Quality;

**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 (B) The Department of Land Conservation and Development;
- 2 (C) The Department of Transportation;
- 3 (D) The Housing and Community Services Department;
- 4 (E) The Oregon Business Development Department; and
- 5 (F) Other state agencies identified by the regional solutions coordinator and the regional sol-
- 6 utions advisory committee to participate as necessary.

7 [(b)] (c) Regional solutions teams shall operate in conjunction and consultation with regional  
8 solutions advisory committees.

9 [(c)] (d) Regional solutions teams shall address community and economic development by work-  
10 ing to address regional issues, priorities and opportunities and leveraging funding opportunities for  
11 sound and long-term economic growth.

12 [(d)] (e) The directors and staff of the state agencies listed in paragraph [(a)] (b) of this sub-  
13 section and natural resource agencies shall work with regional solutions coordinators and regional  
14 solutions teams to fulfill regional priorities, in coordination with the office of the Governor.

15 [(e)] (f) Regional solutions teams shall review and evaluate regional implementation project  
16 proposals submitted in consultation with regional solutions advisory committees.

17 [(f)] (g) In considering, reviewing or undertaking regional implementation project proposals or  
18 projects that involve significant environmental issues, regional solutions coordinators shall convene  
19 all affected stakeholders with the assistance of the Oregon Consensus Program established within  
20 the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government for the purpose of providing alternative dispute resolu-  
21 tion services to seek to resolve disputed issues, if any.

22 (4)(a) A regional solutions advisory committee shall be appointed for each region[. *Each com-*  
23 *mittee shall consist of a minimum of*], **each committee consisting of at least** five members ap-  
24 pointed by the Governor, and serving at the pleasure of the Governor, as follows:

25 (A) One local convenor who represents the region, who shall serve as chairperson of the com-  
26 mittee;

27 (B) One representative recommended by the executive body of the Association of Oregon Coun-  
28 ties;

29 (C) One representative recommended by the executive body of the League of Oregon Cities;

30 (D) One person who represents local and regional business and industry interests; and

31 (E) One person who represents philanthropic organizations.

32 (b) Regional solutions advisory committees shall:

33 (A) Establish regional priorities for community and economic development in the region;

34 (B) Assist regional solutions coordinators and regional solutions teams with obtaining, and  
35 connecting to, resources and funding; and

36 (C) Consider, review and recommend regional implementation project proposals.

37 (c) In considering, reviewing and recommending regional implementation project proposals under  
38 this subsection, regional solutions advisory committees shall consider whether the project proposal  
39 seeks to address the state's economically, socially and environmentally sustainable goals and objec-  
40 tives described in ORS 184.423.

41 (d) Members of the regional solutions advisory committees are not entitled to compensation for  
42 the performance of official duties and responsibilities.

43 (e) The regional solutions coordinators and regional solutions teams shall provide staff to the  
44 regional solutions advisory committees as necessary to allow the committees to carry out the pro-  
45 visions of paragraph (b) of this subsection.

1       **(5) The regional solutions state and federal grants coordinator shall work with the re-**  
2 **gional solutions teams, state agencies listed in subsection (3)(b)(A) to (E) of this section and**  
3 **natural resources agencies to:**

4       **(a) Systematically identify and address barriers that communities face in applying for and**  
5 **managing state grants;**

6       **(b) Increase accessibility to state grant opportunities; and**

7       **(c) Improve interagency coordination around grant opportunities, including the develop-**  
8 **ment of streamlined application processes where possible.**

9       **SECTION 2.** ORS 284.753 is amended to read:

10       284.753. **(1)(a)** In awarding grants, loans or incentive funds for projects undertaken in con-  
11 nection with grant, loan or incentive programs, state agencies listed in ORS 284.754 [(3)(a)(A)]  
12 **(3)(b)(A) to (E)** shall, consistent with the programs' enabling legislation[, ] **and** rules [*and*  
13 *regulations*], use regional priorities for community and economic development as described in ORS  
14 284.754 [*in the consideration of*] **when considering** project funding decisions.

15       **(b)** [*and base*] Decisions [*of*] **as to** which projects to undertake **shall be based** upon whether the  
16 project will:

17       [(1)] **(A)** Use regional and community-based problem solving.

18       [(2)] **(B)** Support regional and community-based means of integrating state and local resources  
19 and services.

20       [(3)] **(C)** Create jobs in relation to the economy and population of the region directly impacted  
21 by the project.

22       [(4)] **(D)** Involve investment of capital in relation to the economy and population of the region  
23 directly impacted by the project.

24       [(5)] **(E)** Have community support, as indicated by the support of the governing body of the local  
25 government.

26       [(6)] **(F)** Have obtained appropriate land use and environmental reviews and authorizations prior  
27 to utilization of funds.

28       **(2) The agencies listed in ORS 284.754 (3)(b)(A) to (E) shall work with the state and fed-**  
29 **eral grants coordinator to systematically identify and address barriers to accessing and**  
30 **managing state and federal grants, with a focus on opportunities to reduce fragmentation**  
31 **and streamline grant programs offered by state agencies.**

32       **SECTION 3.** There is allocated for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, from the Admin-  
33 istrative Services Economic Development Fund, to the Oregon Business Development De-  
34 partment, the amount of \$5,000,000 to be used to provide matches for federal funds available  
35 through the Federal Readiness and Leverage Fund.

36       **SECTION 4.** This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
37 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect  
38 on its passage.