

## CHAPTER 82

AN ACT

HB 4015

Relating to state agency alignment with regional community and economic development priorities; and declaring an emergency.

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

**SECTION 1.** As used in sections 1 to 3 of this 2014 Act:

(1) "Community and economic development" means development that:

(a) Relates to, supports and promotes the policies and objectives of the Regional Solutions Program established under section 3 of this 2014 Act;

(b) Promotes, expands or prevents the decline of local, regional and statewide industries and businesses located or to be located in Oregon;

(c) Creates jobs or prevents the loss of jobs in Oregon; and

(d) Improves the economy in Oregon.

(2) "Grant, loan or incentive program" means any program or other type of undertaking that a state agency has been authorized by the Legislative Assembly to establish, implement and fund and that has as one or more of its purposes community and economic development in a region, or that will affect community and economic development in a region of this state.

(3) "Local government" means a city, county, authority or entity organized under state statute or city or county charter, and includes any council of governments created under ORS chapter 190.

(4) "Natural resource agency" means the State Department of Agriculture, the Water Resources Department, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Forestry Department, the Department of State Lands, the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries and the State Marine Board.

(5) "Region" means an economic development district in Oregon, created by the Economic Development Administration of the United States Department of Commerce, for which a regional solutions center has been established under section 3 of this 2014 Act.

(6) "State agency" means an officer, board, commission, department, division, institution, branch or agency in the executive or administrative branch of state government.

**SECTION 2.** In awarding grants, loans or incentive funds for projects undertaken in connection with grant, loan or incentive programs, state agencies listed in section 3 (3)(a)(A) to (E) of this 2014 Act shall, consistent with the programs' enabling legislation, rules and regu-

lations, use regional priorities for community and economic development as described in section 3 of this 2014 Act in the consideration of project funding decisions and base decisions of which projects to undertake upon whether the project will:

(1) Use regional and community-based problem solving.

(2) Support regional and community-based means of integrating state and local resources and services.

(3) Create jobs in relation to the economy and population of the region directly impacted by the project.

(4) Involve investment of capital in relation to the economy and population of the region directly impacted by the project.

(5) Have community support, as indicated by the support of the governing body of the local government.

(6) Have obtained appropriate land use and environmental reviews and authorizations prior to utilization of funds.

**SECTION 3.** (1) The Regional Solutions Program is established within the office of the Governor, in collaboration with state agencies, consisting of regional solutions centers described in subsection (2) of this section, regional solutions teams described in subsection (3) of this section and regional solutions advisory committees described in subsection (4) of this section. The program shall work with state agencies, local governments, public and private entities, philanthropic organizations and academic institutions, as appropriate, to develop and coordinate regional implementation projects, identify regional priorities for community and economic development, address issues and seize opportunities.

(2) The Regional Solutions Program includes regional solutions centers located throughout this state. The centers provide a physical location for, and serve as the primary place for the business and operations of, the regional solutions teams and the regional solutions advisory committees.

(3)(a) Each regional solutions team shall include a regional solutions coordinator and staff. Staff may include, but is not limited to, employees and representatives of the following state agencies:

(A) The Department of Environmental Quality;

(B) The Department of Land Conservation and Development;

(C) The Department of Transportation;

(D) The Housing and Community Services Department;

(E) The Oregon Business Development Department; and

(F) Other state agencies identified by the regional solutions coordinator and the regional

solutions advisory committee to participate as necessary.

(b) Regional solutions teams shall operate in conjunction and consultation with regional solutions advisory committees.

(c) Regional solutions teams shall address community and economic development by working to address regional issues, priorities and opportunities and leveraging funding opportunities for sound and long-term economic growth.

(d) The directors and staff of the state agencies listed in paragraph (a) of this subsection and natural resource agencies shall work with regional solutions coordinators and regional solutions teams to fulfill regional priorities, in coordination with the office of the Governor.

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

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

(4)(a) A regional solutions advisory committee shall be appointed for each region. Each committee shall consist of a minimum of five members appointed by the Governor, and serving at the pleasure of the Governor, as follows:

(A) One local convenor who represents the region, who shall serve as chairperson of the committee;

(B) One representative recommended by the executive body of the Association of Oregon Counties;

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

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

(E) One person who represents philanthropic organizations.

(b) Regional solutions advisory committees shall:

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

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

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

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

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

(e) The regional solutions coordinators and regional solutions teams shall provide staff to the regional solutions advisory committees as necessary to allow the committees to carry out the provisions of paragraph (b) of this subsection.

**SECTION 4.** On or before July 1, 2014, natural resource agencies as defined in section 1 of this 2014 Act shall collaborate to develop and deliver a plan to the Governor that describes how natural resource agencies shall participate in regional solutions teams.

**SECTION 5.** Before the beginning of the 2015 regular legislative session, the Governor and the Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services shall develop a process to provide public notice and the opportunity for public comment, and for consideration of public comments, at regional solutions advisory committee meetings where the establishment of regional priorities for community and economic development and regional implementation project proposals are being considered.

**SECTION 6.** This 2014 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2014 Act takes effect on its passage.

Approved by the Governor April 1, 2014

Filed in the office of Secretary of State April 2, 2014

Effective date April 1, 2014