

**HB 2850 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**House Committee On Economic Development**

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**Prepared By:** Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/27

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Directs the Department of Environmental Quality to study funding opportunities for supporting brownfield redevelopment opportunities and report to the relevant environment and natural resources interim committees of the Legislative Assembly on or before September 15, 2020. Sunsets on January 2, 2021.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

A brownfield is a vacant or underused property where actual or perceived environmental contamination complicates its expansion or redevelopment. Staff for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) work with communities, government agencies and other interested organizations to help investigate and clean up potentially contaminated sites. DEQ helps local governments and nonprofits apply for grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and works with Business Oregon and other partners to identify funding for site investigations, cleanups, and redevelopment planning.

Business Oregon works with DEQ to ensure that a project's scope of work will achieve environmental compliance and meet the needs of the redevelopment project. It manages two funds: the Oregon Brownfields Redevelopment Fund, funded by proceeds from state revenue bond sales; and the Oregon Coalition Brownfields Cleanup Fund, capitalized through a revolving grant from the EPA. Environmental actions funded through the Business Oregon brownfields program must be linked to site redevelopment that facilitates economic development or community revitalization.

House Bill 2850 directs DEQ to study funding opportunities for supporting brownfield redevelopment opportunities and report to the relevant environment and natural resources interim committees of the Legislative Assembly on or before September 15, 2020.