Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

MEASURE: HB 2661 A CARRIER: Sen. Knopp

Senate Committee On Education

Fiscal:	Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue:	No Revenue Impact
Action Date:	05/26/15
Action:	Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)
Meeting Dates:	05/14, 05/26
Vote:	
	Yeas: 6 - Baertschiger Jr, Beyer, Hass, Knopp, Kruse, Roblan
	Exc: 1 - Gelser
Prepared By:	Gretchen Engbring, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides that school drills and instruction on safety threats include lockdown, lockout, shelter in place, and evacuation procedures. Requires tsunami drills and instruction in schools in tsunami hazard zones. Allows governing body of public body to hold executive session to consider matters relating to school safety. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2015.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Lockdown drills currently not required by law
- Many high schools not practicing lockdown drills
- Value of practicing lockdown and other safety drills and preparing for emergencies
- Concern that not all schools in coastal zones are in tsunami hazard zones
- Amendments as expanding language to include other common terminology used for safety drills, including lockdown, lockout, shelter in place, and evacuation
- Amendments as addressing concern that some public meetings related to school safety may disclose information that could put students at risk

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Specifies that tsunami drills and instruction be undertaken in schools in a tsunami hazard zone, rather than a coastal zone. Specifies that drills and instruction on safety threats include lockdown as well as lockout, shelter in place, and evacuation procedures. Expands drills and instruction to include students up to grade twelve. Revises ORS 192.660 to allow a governing body of a public body to hold an executive session to consider matters relating to school safety or a plan that responds to safety threats made toward a school.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 336.071, established by House Bill 2789 (2013), controls school safety and drill procedures. It requires all schools to, "instruct and drill students on emergency procedures so that the students can respond to an emergency without confusion or panic." The statute lists the types of emergency scenario responses that must be drilled, and how often schools are required to conduct drills during the school year.

House Bill 2661-A provides that school drills and instruction on safety threats include lockdown, lockout, shelter in place, and evacuation procedures, and allows governing bodies of public bodies to hold executive sessions to consider matters relating to school safety.