HB 2558 A   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Action Date:	04/02/19
Action:	Do pass with amendments
	and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng.)
Vote:	8-0-0-0
Yeas:	8 - Evans, Findley, Lewis, Meek, Neron, Wallan, Wilde, Zika
Fiscal:	Fiscal impact issued
Revenue:	No revenue impact
Prepared By:	Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates:	3/14, 4/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates Task Force on Seismic Event Preparation to study impacts of major seismic event on children. Directs Department of Education to provide staff support for Task Force. Requires Task Force to report to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2020.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Physical, mental, and emotional impacts of natural disasters
- Appropriate agency to oversee the task force

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND:

The coast of the Pacific Northwest has, for thousands of years, experienced periodic, catastrophic seismic events related to the Cascadia subduction zone (CSZ), which extends from northern California to British Columbia. However, it was not until the 1980s when scientists recognized the CSZ as an active fault that poses a major threat to Oregon. Since then, building codes have been updated, and state and regional preparations have been undertaken to prepare Oregon citizens and the state's infrastructure and governments to better sustain a potential earthquake, and also to better recover from such an event.

The Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Committee (OSSPAC) defines the goal of seismic resilience as follows: Oregon citizens will not only be protected from life-threatening physical harm, but because of the risk reduction measures and pre-disaster planning, communities will be able to recover more quickly and with less continuing vulnerability following a Cascadia subduction zone earthquake and tsunami.

House Bill 2558-A creates a Task Force on Seismic Event Preparation to study the effect that a major earthquake and tsunami would have on children.