

HB 4144 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Action Date: 02/13/20

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 7-0-1-0

Yeas: 7 - Evans, Lewis, Meek, Neron, Post, Wilde, Zika

Exc: 1 - Wallan

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

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Meeting Dates: 2/11, 2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Homeland Security Council to update the list of equipment that may be purchased through emergency preparedness grant program. Adds equipment necessary for urban search and rescue teams to the highest priority level for the purpose of the emergency preparedness grant program. Authorizes issuance of general obligation bonds under Article XI-Q of Oregon Constitution for grant program. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Status of Oregon's eight urban search and rescue teams
- Advertising SPIRE program across the state
- Oregon's aging infrastructure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Prioritizes requests from eight specified applicants for the purpose of equipping urban search and rescue teams.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 2687 (2017) established the Resiliency Grant Fund by Article XI-Q bonds up to \$5 million. The goal was to enable the purchase and distribution of emergency preparedness equipment throughout the state by local governments, special government bodies, private nonprofits, and tribal governments (eligible since 2019). The program received 293 applications. Equipment was awarded to 27 counties and two tribal nations. Current funding is expected to cover 79 "Priority 1" projects, including generators, water purification trailers, high-axle rescue vehicle, water rescue vehicles, mass casualty support trailers, and fuel transport vehicles.

House Bill 4144-A directs the Homeland Security Council to update the list of equipment eligible for purchase through the grant program. Additionally, the measure permits the State Treasurer to issue Article XI-Q bonds up to \$5 million to be deposited into the Resiliency Grant Fund, and specifies eight fire departments that are to be prioritized for grants for urban search and rescue.