HB 2237   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management

Prepared By:	Cassie Passon, Counsel
Sub-Referral To:	House Committee On Education
Meeting Dates:	2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Office of Emergency Management to create and maintain roster of individuals available for temporary emergency-related work. Requires students at post secondary institutions who receives $1000 or more in scholarships to fulfill certain emergency preparedness requirements. Prohibits Higher Education Coordinating Commission from awarding grants to students do not fulfill the requirements. Section one becomes operative July 1, 2022; Section two first applies to 2022-23 academic year.

Subsequent referral to the House Committee on Education

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Health Authority operates the State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Oregon (SERV-OR). This database contains a list of licensed health care professionals who have registered to be volunteers in the event of federal, state, and/or local emergencies. SERV-OR consists of three volunteer groups; the Volunteer Management Unit, the State Managed Volunteer Pool, and the Medical Reserve Corps. Oregon also has the Oregon Civil Defense Force, formerly known as the Oregon State Defense Force, which is made up of volunteers and is part of Oregon's organized militia as outlined in Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 396.105. During peacetime, the mission of the Civil Defense Force is to assist the Oregon National Guard.

House Bill 2237 directs the Office of Emergency Management to create and maintain a roster of students at post secondary institutions who are available for temporary emergency-related work. The bill also requires those students who receive $1000 or more in scholarships or grants from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to fulfill certain emergency preparedness requirements and prohibits HECC from awarding scholarships and grants to students who do not fulfill those requirements.