

SB 104 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management

Prepared By: Cassie Passon, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 5/6, 5/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to establish or recognize credentialing of critical service providers, to authorize access and function during emergencies that would otherwise be prohibited. Includes private entities in establishment of sector-specific credentialing programs and sets requirements. Mandates submission of annual report for entities that establish credentialing programs.

Senate Votes: Ayes, 26; Nays, 4--Boquist, Girod, Heard, Linthicum

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Building on “first informer broadcaster” credentialing program
- Program originally applied to broadcast engineers
- Qualifications needed
- Credentialing term
- Current number of credentialed/in the process of being credentialed individuals
- Adding additional critical professions to credentialing program
- Why broadcasters were credentialed first
- Background on House Bill 2210 (2015)
- Need to credential other critical professions

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon currently has a “first informer broadcaster” statute, passed by the Oregon Legislative Assembly in 2015 with House Bill 2210, that permits employees of designated broadcasters to access emergency areas for “the purposes of maintaining transmitters, generators or other essential equipment at a broadcast station or facility used to acquire, produce or transmit news or public safety information related to the emergency.”

Senate Bill 104 would expand the “first informer broadcaster” statute to provide for the credentialing of additional critical service providers by the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) or others if certain criteria are met, to streamline such providers’ access and ability to function in emergencies.