

HB 2896 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management

Action Date: 03/18/21

Action: Do pass. Refer to Ways and Means.

Vote: 6-0-0-0

Yeas: 6 - Evans, Grayber, Lewis, Meek, Wallan, Wright

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/25, 3/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to conduct multidisciplinary, all-hazards emergency response exercise annually. Requires each state agency to conduct yearly internal exercise to test emergency preparedness. Directs counties to hold quarterly tabletop emergency response exercise. Allows OEM to assist local government with cost of exercises.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Putting training schedule in place
- Including current Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) exercises towards training requirements
- Funding

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, Oregon follows the federal Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) for its emergency response exercises. The program involves a cycle of exercise design and development, conducting the exercise, evaluating the exercise, and improvement planning, all of which are overseen by a program management team. The HSEEP provides a common methodology, which may enable better interoperability and collaboration between jurisdictions. In 2016, Oregon participated in the four-day, multi-state functional exercise called Cascadia Rising. The exercise focused on responding to a 9.0 magnitude earthquake along the Cascadia Subduction Zone and the resulting tsunamis and aftershocks.

House Bill 2896 directs the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to conduct annual multidisciplinary, all-hazard emergency response exercises and for each state agency to conduct yearly internal exercises that test at least one element of their emergency preparedness. The measure also directs counties to conduct quarterly tabletop scenario-based exercises related to emergency response.