

SB 288 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Action Date: 03/16/21

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

Vote: 3-1-0-0

Yeas: 3 - Manning Jr, Patterson, Thomsen

Nays: 1 - Linthicum

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

Prepared By: Regina Wilson, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/23, 3/4, 3/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies requirements for interagency notification and coordination of state resources in emergency response system to include faith-based and community-based organizations. Authorizes the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to maintain emergency response notification and interagency coordination system. Specifies certain target populations as part of multijurisdictional cooperation and outreach efforts. Expands definition of "qualified emergency service volunteer." Permits the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to provide workers' compensation coverage for emergency health care providers in accordance with certain rules for persons injured while performing emergency service activities during a declaration of statewide or public health emergency; permits workers' compensation coverage for said providers rendering assistance pursuant to requests related to the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) or the Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement (PNEMA), within certain parameters. Permits workers' compensation coverage for emergency health care workers engaged in certain approved training. Permits a registered emergency health care provider, upon request to the Governor from another EMAC party state, and upon certain OHA directives, to be considered an officer or employee of OHA for purposes of liability as defined in the EMAC. Modifies certain responsibilities of the State Resilience Officer (SRO). Directs Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to establish an outreach program with certain guidelines. Directs Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) to administer the Unreinforced Masonry Seismic Safety Program with certain provisions. Authorizes OBDD to award and disburse grants within certain rules and guidelines. Establishes corresponding Oregon Unreinforced Masonry Seismic Safety Fund as specified. Takes effect 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Disaster preparedness related to underserved populations
- Emergency response system and support
- Recognition of growing senior population

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Authorizes the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to maintain emergency response notification and interagency coordination system. Modifies list of target populations as part of multijurisdictional cooperation and outreach efforts. Requires Department of State Police (DPS) to assist with agency transfer of certain responsibilities. Modifies definition of "qualified emergency service volunteer." Removes certain provisions concerning the Oregon Homeland Security Council. Modifies certain responsibilities of State Resilience Officer (SRO). Removes specific provisions and funding requirements concerning a grant program administered by Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) in consultation with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Modifies certain Unreinforced Masonry Seismic Safety Program grant award provisions and reporting

SB 288 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

requirements. Modifies fiscal rules concerning the issuance of lottery bonds.

BACKGROUND:

In February of 2013, Oregon's Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Committee (OSSPAC or the Earthquake Commission) released a comprehensive report, including recommendations to the Legislative Assembly, for a long-term implementation strategy. The initial plan provided recommendations to address, over a 50-year span, ways to improve resiliency through capitol investments in public infrastructure, incentivized private-sector engagement and specific policy changes. With more than 140 recommendations, it emphasized the importance of long-term statewide, regional, and nationally coordinated efforts to prepare for an inevitable earthquake expected to occur off of the Pacific Northwest coast. Following the plan's release, the Legislative Assembly enacted Senate Bill 33 (2013), establishing a task force to prioritize issues for legislative action. The task force's highest recommendation was to create the position of State Resilience Officer (SRO) within the executive branch to unify and centralize implementation efforts. This recommendation was enacted in 2015 through House Bill 2270.

Efforts to address resiliency continued in 2017, through Senate Bill 850. OSSPAC was tasked with studying implementation priorities of mass care and shelter and residential earthquake insurance. OSSPAC issued its findings from this study in September of 2018. In October of 2018, the Governor and the SRO released "Resiliency 2025," articulating six goals: continued investment in seismic upgrades to schools and emergency services buildings; development of a plan for the Critical Infrastructure Hub to safeguard fuel supplies; implementing an earthquake early warning system; collaboration to prepare Oregonians for self-sufficiency in the immediate aftermath of a disaster; strengthening staging and supply chains; and consistent plan updates.

Senate Bill 1537 from the 2020 regular legislative session was not enacted, but advanced several of the Governor's emergency preparedness priorities, including: completion of the ShakeAlert earthquake early warning system; standing-up emergency services staging areas on a graduated basis; prioritizing dam assessment and repair; and development of a program to assist Oregonians with self-sufficiency.

Senate Bill 288 A represents the most recent evolution and refinement of Oregon's emergency preparedness, response, and recovery planning efforts. It includes faith-based and community organizations, targets certain populations for additional outreach, provides for qualified volunteers rendering assistance during statewide declarations of emergency, and directs the Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) to administer the Unreinforced Masonry Seismic Safety Program to disburse grants to improve the safety and resiliency of qualifying structures during an earthquake.