

**HB 2605 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**Senate Committee On Housing and Development**

**Carrier:** Sen. Anderson

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**Action Date:** 05/25/21  
**Action:** Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)  
**Vote:** 4-1-0-0  
**Yeas:** 4 - Anderson, Golden, Jama, Patterson  
**Nays:** 1 - Linthicum  
**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact  
**Revenue:** No revenue impact  
**Prepared By:** Devin Edwards, LPRO Analyst  
**Meeting Dates:** 5/11, 5/25, 5/25

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires Risk Category III and IV buildings and structures to meet minimum tsunami design criteria based on specified standards of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). Allows Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) to require new building sites for certain structures to be evaluated for seismic vulnerability. Requires developers of Risk Category III or IV structures to consult with State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) on potential tsunami impacts before submitting design plans. Requires DOGAMI to notify developers and officials responsible for approving development, of potential tsunami impacts and any changes it recommends to mitigate same, within 45 days of receiving development requests. Requires DOGAMI to report to Legislative Assembly by September 15 each year. Applies to initial permits issued on or after January 1, 2022.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Tsunami building standards in Washington, California, and Hawaii
- Migration to coastal areas
- Urban growth boundaries
- Vertical evacuation structures
- Building permitting authority for local governments in tsunami inundation zones
- Impact on construction costs
- Availability and cost of flood and tsunami insurance

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Removes provisions on refuge structures for vertical evacuation and explanations of abbreviations already defined in state building codes.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 1995, the Legislative Assembly established a moratorium on constructing new essential buildings, like schools and hospitals, in the tsunami inundation zone along the coast. The moratorium was lifted on January 1, 2020 pursuant to House Bill 3309 (2019). The State Building Code does not currently include tsunami resilient design provisions for new facilities that may be built in the tsunami inundation zone.

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) provides minimum tsunami and earthquake design standards for certain buildings and structures, and Oregon's Structural Specialty Code categorizes buildings according to risk. Risk Category III includes buildings that would pose a substantial hazard to human life in the event of failure, such as schools, residential care facilities, power-generating stations, water and wastewater treatment facilities and other public utilities, and any building with more than 5,000 people. Risk Category IV includes essential facilities such as surgery and emergency rooms; fire, rescue, ambulance, and police stations; emergency preparedness,

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response and back-up facilities; structures that contain highly toxic materials; aviation and air traffic controls and emergency aircraft hangars; buildings with critical national defense functions; and water storage facilities and pump structures for fire suppression.

House Bill 2605 B imposes a number of requirements on new development of certain structures in the tsunami inundation zone beginning with permits issued January 1, 2022: Risk Category III and IV buildings must meet minimum tsunami design criteria based on specified ASCE standards; the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) may evaluate the seismic vulnerability of certain building sites; developers of Risk Category III or IV structures must consult with the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) before submitting design plans; and DOGAMI must communicate certain information and any recommendations within 45 days of receiving development requests. Finally, the measure requires DOGAMI to report its assessments to the Legislative Assembly by September 15 each year.