

HB 3058 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Aviation to study issues related to improving airport infrastructure resilience and report to interim legislative committees by September 15, 2024. Sunsets January 2, 2025.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) is a megathrust fault approximately 1,000 kilometers long that lies off the Pacific coast from Northern Vancouver Island to Cape Mendocino California, forming the boundary between the North American and Juan de Fuca tectonic plates. Prior to the 1980s, little to nothing was known about the region's earthquake, until scientists and historians identified the fault as the cause of the "Orphan Tsunami" of 1700. Scientists now estimate that more than 40 earthquakes exceeding eight on the Richter scale have occurred along the CSZ over the past 10,000 years, with at least 19 of those events exceeding a magnitude of nine and rupturing the entire CSZ.

A major CSZ earthquake would result in widespread damage throughout the coastal and inland Pacific Northwest, including inundation and flooding from a tsunami. The Oregon Resilience Plan outlines a plan for strategically focused retrofit solutions for transportation facilities, including airports, which will play an integral role in emergency response efforts and recovery efforts following a major seismic event.

House Bill 3058 directs the Oregon Department of Aviation to conduct a study of issues related to improving airport infrastructure resilience and to report findings to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2024.