

HB 3486 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

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Meeting Dates: 3/14, 3/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Mandates design and construction standards for newly constructed large rooms in schools or community colleges of high seismic categories for use as earthquake relief structures. Sets minimum design standards for seismic separation, emergency power and water and natural gas shut off functionality. Exempts from standards day care facilities, educational facilities accessory to places of worship and educational facilities that cannot hold more than 250 people. Directs the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services adopt rules for implementation.

FIS:

RIS:

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Clarification that the measure applies only to new construction
- Estimates of increased construction costs to schools
- Lack of existing earthquake shelters

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Cascadia Subduction Zone is a 600-mile fault line running from northern California to British Columbia and located off the Pacific coast shoreline. According to the Office of Emergency Management, Oregon has the potential for a 9.0+ magnitude earthquake caused by the Cascadia Subduction Zone and current models indicate that there is a 37 percent chance that an earthquake of 7.1+ magnitude in this fault zone will occur in the next 50 years.

House Bill 3486 mandates that newly constructed large rooms in schools or community colleges that are at high-risk of seismic impacts be designed and constructed for use as earthquake relief structures. The measure requires minimum design standards for seismic separation from the rooms to other structures not designated as earthquake relief shelters, requires emergency power and water be included in the design, as well as natural gas shut off functionality. These standards are not required for day care facilities, educational facilities accessory to places of worship and educational facilities that cannot hold more than 250 people. The Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services will adopt rules to implement new design standards.