

HB 2902 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs

Prepared By: Beverly Schoonover, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/2, 5/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Encourages schools to instruct students on preparing for and recovering from fires; earthquakes, including tsunamis; safety threats; and region-specific natural disasters. Requires Oregon Department of Education to develop guidance for instruction in consultation with the Oregon Department of Emergency Management and provide professional development upon request. First applies to 2024-2025 school year. Becomes operative July 1, 2024.

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

REVENUE: No revenue impact

HOUSE VOTE: 58-0-2

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Disaster preparedness planning for school children
- Age-appropriate disaster preparedness education

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 336.071 currently requires that each school instruct and drills students on emergency procedures related to fires, earthquakes, and safety threats for at least 30 minutes in each school month. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster planning and response programs for youth are important because they can effectively bring the message of preparedness and planning home to their families, that disaster preparedness programs encourage youth leadership, and youth who are prepared for an emergency experience less anxiety and more confidence during actual emergencies and disasters.

House Bill 2902 A encourages schools to instruct students on preparing for and recovering from fires; earthquakes, including tsunamis; safety threats; and natural disasters specific to the school's region, and requires the Oregon Department of Education to develop guidance for instruction and provide professional development to teachers and administrators upon request.