

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2902 - A

82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2023 Regular Session

Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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Measure Description:

Encourages schools to provide instruction on preparing for and recovering from fires, earthquakes, tsunamis, safety threats, and natural disasters.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Department of Education, Department of Emergency Management, School Districts, Counties, Cities, Special Districts

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure are anticipated to be minimal - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

House Bill 2902 A-engrossed encourages school districts to instruct students, in an age-appropriate manner, on preparing for and recovering from fires, earthquakes, tsunamis, safety threats, and natural disasters, including any weather-related events, such as flooding, drought, or excessive snowfall. The measure directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), in consultation with the Department of Emergency Management, to develop and make available instruction guidance to school districts and to provide, when requested, professional development to teachers and administrators relating to the guidance. The measure takes effect on January 1, 2024, becomes operative on July 1, 2024, and first applies to the 2024-25 school year.

Oregon Department of Education

ODE's School Safety and Emergency Management (SSEM) program staff currently provide training and technical assistance, including the development, implementation, and exercise of school emergency operating procedures, on school threats and hazards by region. The measure would increase the workload of SSEM staff by requiring ODE to develop additional guidance for instruction on preparing for and recovering from fires, earthquakes, tsunamis, safety threats, and natural disasters, and make that guidance available to school districts. When requested, SSEM program staff would also provide professional development to teachers and administrators. It should be noted, though, that the measure does not require school districts to provide any additional instruction; it only encourages them to do so. School districts are encouraged to ask ODE for guidance and professional development, but it is unclear how many school districts would ask ODE for assistance.

The measure is anticipated to have a minimal fiscal impact on ODE, in that ODE would be able to absorb any increase in workload with existing SSEM program staff. However, if the magnitude of requests for assistance from school districts were to substantially increase, ODE may need to request additional resources from the Emergency Board or the Legislative Assembly in the 2024 session.

Other Government Units

The measure is anticipated to have a minimal fiscal impact, if any, on the Department of Emergency Management, school districts, counties, cities, and special districts.