

**SB 962 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

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

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**Action Date:** 03/30/23

**Action:** Do pass with amendments. Refer to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng).

**Vote:** 5-0-1-0

**Yeas:** 5 - Linthicum, Manning Jr, President Wagner, Thatcher, Woods

**Exc:** 1 - Gorsek

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**Meeting Dates:** 3/23, 3/30

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Directs the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) to develop and implement a grant program to distribute funding for emergency preparedness coordinators in specified counties. Establishes eligibility requirements. Directs OEM to award grants to selected applicants in an amount sufficient to fund a county emergency preparedness coordinator for one biennium. Directs OEM, when awarding grants, to seek to maximize the overall emergency preparedness in the state, given geographic differences in types and severity of potential emergencies. Appropriates unspecified amount of funding to OEM. Authorizes grant funding to Clatsop, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Lane, Lincoln or Tillamook counties if emergency management agency of the county is funded by an Emergency Management Performance Grant. Requires the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council to convene a Committee on County Emergency Management; directs the committee to study and make recommendations on Oregon counties' capacity to prepare, respond to, and recover from emergencies; and requires the committee to submit recommendations to interim committees of the Legislative Assembly on or before December 31, 2024. Directs the Legislative Revenue Office to assist the committee in carrying out revenue projections and other tasks. Sunsets January 2, 2026.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Existing funding and resources for county-based emergency preparedness coordinators
- Purpose and function of local emergency managers
- Emergency response efforts in coastal communities

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Specifies which counties are eligible for grant funding. Requires the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council to convene a Committee on County Emergency Management; directs the committee to study and make recommendations on Oregon counties' capacity to prepare, respond to, and recover from emergencies; and requires the committee to submit recommendations to interim committees of the Legislative Assembly on or before December 31, 2024. Directs the Legislative Revenue Office to assist the committee in carrying out revenue projections and other tasks. Sunsets January 2, 2026.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program makes grants to states to assist state, local, tribal, and territorial governments in preparing for all hazards, as authorized by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.). The Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) applies to FEMA for EMPG program funds on behalf of the State of Oregon, and local and tribal emergency management agencies are eligible for grant funds.

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There is a cost-matching requirement for EMPG funds which requires applicants to dedicate not less than 50 percent of the total project cost in cash or in in-kind funds.

Senate Bill 962 A requires OEM to develop and implement a grant program to distribute state funds to specified counties with an emergency management agency that is funded through the EMPG program. The Department is directed to award grants sufficient to fund coordinators for one biennium and to consider geographic differences and severity of emergency risk for grant awards.