

**HB 2902 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Sen. Manning Jr

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

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**Action Date:** 05/04/23  
**Action:** Do pass the A-Eng bill.  
**Vote:** 3-0-2-1  
**Yeas:** 3 - Manning Jr, President Wagner, Woods  
**Exc:** 2 - Gorsek, Thatcher  
**Abs:** 1 - Linthicum  
**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued  
**Revenue:** No revenue impact  
**Prepared By:** Beverly Schoonover, LPRO Analyst  
**Meeting Dates:** 5/2, 5/4

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Encourages schools to instruct students on preparing for and recovering from fires, earthquakes, 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. Applies to school years beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. Becomes operative July 1, 2024.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

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

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Oregon law currently requires that each school instruct and drill students on emergency procedures related to fires, earthquakes, and safety threats for at least 30 minutes in each school month (ORS 336.071). According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster planning and response programs for youth are important for several reasons: they can effectively bring the message of preparedness and planning home to their families; they 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, tsunamis, safety threats, and other natural disasters specific to the school's region. The measure requires the Oregon Department of Education to develop guidance for instruction and provide professional development to teachers and administrators upon request.