

**HB 2136 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans**

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**Prepared By:** Beverly Anderson, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 2/4, 2/6

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Directs the Department of Emergency Management to develop and implement infrastructure improvement grant program for fairgrounds designated as emergency evacuation sites.

Detailed Summary

Appropriates \$20 million to the Department of Emergency Management to develop a grant program for power, water, fire, telecommunications, and sewer infrastructure improvements at fairgrounds that are used as evacuation sites. The measure requires the department to develop a grantmaking process and requires grantees to submit annual progress reports. Sunsets January 2, 2029. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

According to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management, in 2020, multiple wildfires burned over one million acres of land statewide. Approximately 500,000 people were under evacuation status, and more than 40,000 people had to evacuate their homes. While Oregon's state and county fairgrounds had previously sheltered community members and livestock during emergencies, during the 2020 fires those facilities provided lifesaving shelter to evacuees.