

SB 505 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

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Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Department of Emergency Management to develop and implement a grant program to distribute money to eligible coastal counties for county-level emergency preparedness coordinators, and it appropriates an unspecified amount to the Department for this purpose. The measure requires the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council to convene a Committee on County Emergency Management, which would report to the Legislative Assembly on the capacity of counties in Oregon to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies. The committee provisions would be repealed on January 2, 2027.

Fiscal impact: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

Detailed Summary

Requires the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) to issue rules developing and implementing a grant program to distribute money to eligible counties to fund county-level emergency preparedness coordinators. Specifies grant awards shall maximize overall emergency preparedness in Oregon and fund a county emergency preparedness coordinator for one biennium. Allocates an unspecified amount to OEM for this purpose for the 2025-2027 biennium. Establishes eligibility as follows:

- Clatsop, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Lane, Lincoln, or Tillamook Counties; and
- County's emergency management agency is funded by federal money distributed through the Emergency Management Performance Grant.

Requires the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council to convene a Committee on County Emergency Management, consisting of no more than half of its members. Tasks the committee with studying and making recommendations on the capacity of Oregon counties to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies, including methods establishing dedicated funding for county emergency management staff. Requires the committee to report to the Legislative Assembly by December 31, 2026. Directs the Legislative Revenue Office to assist the committee in carrying out revenue projections and other assigned tasks. Repeals the committee on January 2, 2027.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Coastal king tides
- Emergency preparedness on coast
- Provisions of measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Specifies appropriation to Oregon Department of Emergency Management of \$2,380,000.

BACKGROUND:

Emergency risk varies from place to place. Counties along the Oregon coast, for example, may face different risks than those in the Willamette Valley or Eastern Oregon. For example, the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) [notes](#) that 21 tsunamis have impacted the Oregon coast since 1854.

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[House Bill 2927 \(2021\)](#) established the [Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council \(EPAC\)](#), with the mission of facilitating policy recommendations for disaster preparedness; planning for mitigation, response, and recovery; and an emphasis on outreach to representatives of state and federal emergency support functions.

Senate Bill 505 would allocate funding for OEM to develop and implement a grant program distributing money to eligible coastal counties for emergency preparedness coordinators. It would direct EPAC to create a committee which would report to the Legislative Assembly on the capacity of counties in Oregon to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.