

HB 2581 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Thatcher

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

Action Date: 03/18/25
Action: Do pass.
Vote: 4-0-1-0
Yeas: 4 - Manning Jr, Meek, Thatcher, Woods
Exc: 1 - Smith DB
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Kevin Rancik, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 3/6, 3/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure expands duties of the State Resilience Officer (SRO) from covering seismic safety and resilience to include hazards more broadly, including but not limited to during and after earthquakes, tsunamis, wildfires, and flooding. It directs the SRO to lead statewide efforts to implement the Oregon Resilience Plan, Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, and other state-adopted resilience plans, along with leading executive branch agencies in continuity of operations and government planning.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Coordination with the Oregon Department of Emergency Management
- Duties of the State Resilience Officer

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Resilience Plan was released in February 2013 following the passage of House Resolution 3 (2011), which resolved that the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission should lead and coordinate a resilience plan reviewing policy options, summarize reports and studies, and make recommendations to protect life and maintain commerce following a Cascadia earthquake and tsunami. The Cascadia Subduction Zone, roughly 70-100 miles off the Pacific coast, has not produced an earthquake since one of 9.0 magnitude in the year 1700, and is estimated to have a 37 percent chance of producing an earthquake of magnitude 7.1 or above over the next 50 years. House Bill 2270 (2015) established the office of the State Resilience Officer (SRO) in the office of the Governor, and tasked the SRO with directing, implementing, and coordinating seismic safety and resilience.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires states to create a hazard mitigation plan in order to be eligible for certain non-emergency disaster assistance. These plans must be updated and resubmitted for approval every five years for jurisdictions to remain eligible. FEMA approved Oregon’s Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2020, and the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, and Oregon Department of Emergency Management, are in the process of updating the plan for re-approval.

House Bill 2581 expands the duties of the State Resilience Officer to cover hazards beyond seismic concerns, lead efforts to implement resilience plans, and lead executive branch agencies in continuity of operations planning.