

## HB 2346 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

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**Action Date:** 04/01/25

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

**Vote:** 6-0-1-0

**Yeas:** 6 - Boice, Grayber, Lewis, Skarlatos, Tran, Watanabe

**Exc:** 1 - Evans

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**Meeting Dates:** 3/4, 4/1

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure creates the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management within the Department of Human Services.

#### Detailed Summary

##### Section 1

- Establishes the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management (OREM) in the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Assigns duties described in the Oregon Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan; supports the Department in delivery and administration of program; ensures continuity of operations, requires consultation with other departments and entities to develop and publish a plan for mobilizing resources to provide mass care; and other duties assigned.
- Allows the department to utilize staff, equipment, or other resources for its other programs to assist the Office.
- Allows contracting and grantmaking; allows for the adoption of rules.

##### Section 2

- Assigns the Director of Resilience and Emergency Management to supervise the duties and functions of the Office; allows the Director to organize or reorganize the office if necessary.

##### Section 3-4

- Allows the Office to assist local governments with evacuation; includes and defines vulnerable populations; allows the department to share communications about the location of vulnerable people to first responders or other emergency responders for evacuation purposes.
- Allows for the assistance of providing mass care and human services; requires coordination with the Oregon Department of Emergency Management, local governments, Tribal governments, and others; describes mass care and human service provision relating to emergencies in the state including housing and shelter.
- Allows the Office to collaborate with the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement to provide responsive support to individuals seeking asylum or refugee status.
- Allows the Office to assist or provide food and water for shelters, respite services, displaced people, to support operations for the Oregon Health Authority, and to others served by the department.
- Allows the Office to provide hygiene and sanitation, first aid and personal care services, emergency items. Allows for bulk distribution of items.
- Allows for data collection on population served; allows for reunification support.

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- Allows for collaborating with the State Department on Agriculture for animal and pet care.
- Allows the Office to assist the public to apply for additional benefits.
- Allows the depart to implement or support the implement of an individual assistance program, including direct financial support and support for special need populations.
- Allows the Office to assist with emergency repatriation at the request of the US Department of Health and Human Services.
- Allows for community needs assessments; providing guidance to governmental entities, assess incidents and facilities; provide recovery and other communications; carry out other human service programs in accordance with law.

### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Identification of the gaps in authority and the hope for precise statutory authority
- Concerns about overlapping jurisdiction with the creation of new divisions and departments
- Questions about how OREM coordinates with the Oregon Department of Emergency Management
- Examples of OREM's emergency support and coordination

### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Replaces the original measure.

### **BACKGROUND:**

According to the Oregon Department of Human Services, the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management (OREM) was established during the 2020 wildfires to address mass care, emergency evacuation, and other critical needs in Oregon's impacted communities. The new office was staffed largely by non-budgeted positions to ensure a timely response.