

House Bill 2770

Sponsored by Representative EVANS (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act creates a body to direct the state's response after an emergency. The Act lets the Governor hire more people to do work during the emergency. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.5).

Establishes the Oregon Disaster Recovery Authority. Provides that the Governor may activate the authority when declaring a state of emergency. Directs the authority, when activated, to coordinate initial crisis services, coordinate recovery and mitigation efforts and coordinate the provision of emergency aid to local governments or private entities.

Authorizes the Governor, when the authority is activated, to hire additional state agency personnel to perform duties related to the emergency.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to emergency management.

2 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

3 **SECTION 1. (1) The Oregon Disaster Recovery Authority is established as an advisory**
4 **group within the Office of the Governor to direct emergency recovery in Oregon. The Gov-**
5 **ernor shall determine the membership of the authority, subject to subsection (2) of this**
6 **section.**

7
8 **(2) The Governor shall appoint at least eight individuals to serve as members of the au-**
9 **thority from among state agency leadership, local emergency managers and others with ex-**
10 **pertise in emergency management. The Governor shall seek the advice of the Oregon**
11 **Homeland Security Council when making appointments to the authority. Members of the**
12 **authority serve at the pleasure of the Governor.**

13 **(3) If the Governor declares a state of emergency under ORS 401.165, the Governor may**
14 **activate the authority. The authority remains activated until deactivated by order of the**
15 **Governor. The authority may remain activated notwithstanding the termination of a state**
16 **of emergency.**

17 **(4) When activated, the authority shall:**

18 **(a) Coordinate initial crisis services;**

19 **(b) Coordinate recovery and mitigation efforts throughout this state, using a framework**
20 **aligned with emergency support functions as defined by the Federal Emergency Management**
21 **Agency; and**

22 **(c) Coordinate the provision of emergency funding and other aid to local governments or**
23 **private entities.**

24 **(5) A majority of the members of the authority constitutes a quorum for the transaction**
25 **of business.**

26 **(6) Official action by the authority requires the approval of a majority of the members**
27 **of the authority.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (7) The Governor shall appoint one of the members of the authority to serve as chair-
2 person.

3 (8) The authority shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the Governor or
4 the chairperson. The authority may meet at times when the authority is not activated to
5 maintain readiness in the event of an emergency.

6 (9) The authority may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the authority.

7 (10) The Office of the Governor shall provide staff support to the authority.

8 (11) Members of the authority are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for
9 expenses and serve as volunteers on the authority.

10 (12) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist
11 the authority in the performance of the duties of the authority and, to the extent permitted
12 by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the
13 authority consider necessary to perform their duties.

14 **SECTION 2.** (1) If the Oregon Disaster Recovery Authority established under section 1
15 of this 2025 Act is activated pursuant to a declaration of emergency, the Governor may hire
16 additional state agency personnel under this section.

17 (2) Additional personnel hired under this section:

18 (a) May be placed at any state agency, including the Office of the Governor;

19 (b) Must perform duties related to the emergency, which may include taking over duties
20 previously performed by other state agency personnel who have been reassigned to
21 emergency-related tasks; and

22 (c) Must have their employment terminated no later than the date the authority is de-
23 activated under section 1 of this 2025 Act.

24 (3) Notwithstanding any other law relating to state government employment, additional
25 personnel hired under this section may be recruited and selected through any means the
26 Governor deems appropriate.

27 (4) The Governor's hiring authority under this section is subject to availability of fund-
28 ing. The compensation of additional personnel hired under this section may be paid from the
29 Emergency Personnel Fund established under section 3 of this 2025 Act.

30 **SECTION 3.** The Emergency Personnel Fund is established in the State Treasury, sepa-
31 rate and distinct from the General Fund. The Emergency Personnel Fund consists of moneys
32 appropriated, allocated, deposited or transferred to the fund by the Legislative Assembly or
33 otherwise. Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Office of the Governor
34 to pay for compensation for personnel hired under section 2 of this 2025 Act.

35