

HB 4121 A -A3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

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Meeting Dates: 3/3, 3/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure creates statewide emergency preparedness offices and authorities to coordinate emergency management.

Detailed Summary:

Establishes new offices, authorities, and advisory councils, including the following:

- The **Oregon Statewide Preparedness Authority for Response Training and Intergovernmental Continuity of Imperative Services (SPARTICIS)** within the Department of Administrative Services (DAS)
- The **Statewide Preparedness Authority for Response Coordination (SPARC)** within the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST)
- The **All-Hazards Statewide Responder Database Oversight Authority** within DPSST
- The **Statewide Regional Training Office** within DPSST
- An **Advisory Board for SPARC** within DPSST
- The **Oregon Disaster Recovery Authority** within the Office of the Governor

Creates new accounts, authorities, and funds, including the following:

- The **Regional Facilities Account** in the State Treasury for DAS
- The **Regional Stockpile Support Account** in the State Treasury for DAS
- The **Strategic Partnership Account** in the State Treasury for DAS
- The **Oregon Disaster Recovery Authority** in the State Treasury for the Office of the Governor
- The **Oregon Preparedness Grant Account** in the State Treasury for the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM)
- The **Oregon Public Assistance Grant Program** at OEM
- The **Oregon Individual Grant Program** in the State Treasury for OEM, which OEM may make available to the Department of Human Services

Creates a new grant program at SPARC:

- Requires SPARC to make a \$20 million dollar grant to DPSST for a facility in Salem, to DPSST for a facility to operate and train individuals for the operation of the emergency communications system as defined in ORS 403.105, and to the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council for the CORE3 center in the biennium beginning on July 1, 2028
- Allows SPARC to make two grants up to \$20 million each to recipients through a competitive process on or before July 1, 2031
- Allows SPARC to make two specific grants up to \$20 million each to recipients through a competitive process on or before July 1, 2034
- Allows the state treasurer, at the request of the department, to issue lottery bonds that produce \$60 million in net proceeds for the biennium beginning July 1, 2027, and bonds in the amount of \$40 million in net proceeds for the bienniums beginning July 1, 2029, and July 1, 2033
- Repeals grant and bond programs on January 2, 2036

Other provisions of the measure include the following:

- Requires SPARC to develop and maintain a database called the **All-Hazards Statewide Responder Database**

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- Requires the state resiliency officer (SRO) to report to the legislative committee related to emergency management on or before January 30, 2027, on the sufficiency of their staffing levels
- Requires SPARC to report to the legislative committee related to emergency management on or before January 30, 2027, on the amount of state funding necessary or advisable for operational costs for proposed grant programs
- Requires the SRO to identify state agencies that have one or more emergency support functions identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency; requires those agencies to designate a staff member as the emergency management responsible office; and requires other state agencies to designate a staff member as the continuity of governance responsible officer
- Requires counties to submit a report to the SRO once a biennium on the state of the **county's emergency preparedness**, and describes the requirements of the report
- Adds to the duties of the SRO, and requires reporting
- Adds to the duties related to OEM
- Amends statutes related to **Resilience Hubs and Networks**; allows for the creation of new hubs; allows additional entities to create hubs; and clarifies when hubs may operate
- Updates the definition of **Resilience Networks**; expands the types of support that the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) can provide to hubs and networks; provides guidance for grant agreements
- Allows facilities that receive SPARC grant funding to host **overnight training activities**, notwithstanding state or local laws
- Allows counties, by order or resolution, to waive **civil penalties** under ORS 624.992 under certain conditions
- Requires the Interim Committee on Joint Ways and Means to identify a **sustainable, ongoing revenue source** for SPARC grants
- Requires the Department of the State Fire Marshal to conduct a study related to **paid and volunteer firefighters**; requires a report by September 15, 2027; and repeals this requirement on January 2, 2028
- Requires that OEM shall conduct **state or nationwide criminal records checks** on department employees, contractors, subcontractors, vendors, and volunteers
- Requires ODHS and OEM to establish a **data-sharing agreement and protocols** relating to the Oregon Public Assistance Grant Program and the Oregon Individual Grant Program

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure
- Resilience Hubs and Networks
- CORE3 Center

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A3 Removes significant portions of HB 4121A, but retains the following:

- Creates the **Statewide Regional Training Office** within DPSST, under the supervision and control of the Statewide Regional Training Officer, appointed by the Director of DPSST.
- Directs the **State Resilience Officer (SRO)**, who resides in the Office of the Governor, to identify state agencies with emergency support functions as identify by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
 - Each state agency identified by the SRO will designate an Emergency Management Responsible Officer to act as a liaison related to emergency management.
 - Amends ORS 401.913 to add that the SRO shall standardize policy, prioritize investments for improving resilience posture and provide reports on state agency resilience policy compliance, organizational preparedness, continuity of governance procedures and measures of emergency readiness.
- Creates the **Oregon Disaster Recovery Authority** within the Office of the Governor, that if activated by the Governor, declares a state of emergency under ORS 401.165.

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- Assigns the **Department of Emergency Management (ODEM)** oversight of collaboration, cooperations and coordination between the state and organizations involved in the emergency stockpile plan described in ORS 401.111, the emergency preparedness equipment grant program described in ORS 401.551, and other stockpile and emergency preparedness programs carried out by state agencies.
- Amends statutes related to **Resilience Hubs and Networks**; allows for the creation of new hubs; allows additional entities to create hubs; and clarifies when hubs may operate.
- Updates the definition of **Resilience Networks**; expands the types of support that the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) can provide to hubs and networks; provides guidance for grant agreements.
- Allows facilities that are used for emergency preparedness, response, or recovery and that receive state funding be authorized to host **overnight training activities**, notwithstanding state or local laws.
- Allows counties, by order or resolution, to waive **civil penalties** under ORS 624.992 under certain conditions
- Requires the **Department of the State Fire Marshal** to conduct a study related to paid and volunteer firefighters; requires a report by September 15, 2027; and repeals this requirement on January 2, 2028
- Requires that ODEM shall conduct **state or nationwide criminal records checks** on department employees, contractors, subcontractors, vendors, and volunteers.
- If activated by the Governor:
 - Creates a public assistance grant program through ODEM
 - Creates an individual assistance grant program through ODHS.

Creates new accounts, authorities, and funds, including the following:

- The **Oregon Disaster Recovery Authority** in the State Treasury for the Office of the Governor
- The **Oregon Preparedness Grant Account** in the State Treasury for ODEM
- The **Oregon Public Assistance Grant Program** in the State Treasury for ODEM
- The **Oregon Individual Grant Program** in the State Treasury for ODEM, which ODEM may make available to ODHS

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Legislative Assembly has passed several pieces of legislation to strengthen emergency coordination and communication statewide. [House Bill 2270](#) (2015) created the Office of State Resilience (SRO) in the Governor's Office to direct, implement, and coordinate seismic safety and resilience goal setting. [House Bill 2581](#) (2025) expanded the SRO's duties to include hazards more broadly, including tsunamis, wildfires, and flooding.

[House Bill 3409](#) (2023) created a grant program and required ODHS to support Resilience Hubs and Networks. [House Bill 2927](#) (2021) reorganized the Office of the State Fire Marshal and elevated it to the Department of the State Fire Marshal beginning in 2023. [Senate Bill 860](#) (2025) modified the department's authority and the authority of its representatives regarding fire protection, education, emergency authorities, and investigation.