

**Enrolled**  
**House Bill 4033**

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Emergency Management and Veterans for Representative Thuy Tran)

CHAPTER .....

AN ACT

Relating to emergency volunteers; and declaring an emergency.

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

**TRANSFER**

**SECTION 1.** (1) The duties, functions and powers of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission relating to the volunteer database known as ORVID are imposed upon, transferred to and vested in the Oregon Department of Emergency Management.

(2) The department shall adapt and maintain the database in a manner consistent with section 9 of this 2026 Act.

**RECORDS, PROPERTY, EMPLOYEES**

**SECTION 2.** (1) The executive director of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall:

(a) Deliver to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management all records and property within the jurisdiction of the commission that relate to the duties, functions and powers transferred by section 1 of this 2026 Act; and

(b) Transfer to the department those employees engaged primarily in the exercise of the duties, functions and powers transferred by section 1 of this 2026 Act.

(2) The Director of the Oregon Department of Emergency Management shall take possession of the records and property, and shall take charge of the employees and employ them in the exercise of the duties, functions and powers transferred by section 1 of this 2026 Act, without reduction of compensation but subject to change or termination of employment or compensation as provided by law.

(3) The Governor shall resolve any dispute between the commission and the department relating to transfers of records, property and employees under this section, and the Governor's decision is final.

**UNEXPENDED REVENUES**

**SECTION 3.** (1) The unexpended balances of amounts authorized to be expended by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, from re-

venues dedicated, continuously appropriated, appropriated or otherwise made available for the purpose of administering and enforcing the duties, functions and powers transferred by section 1 of this 2026 Act are transferred to and are available for expenditure by the Oregon Department of Emergency Management for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, for the purpose of administering and enforcing the duties, functions and powers transferred by section 1 of this 2026 Act.

(2) The expenditure classifications, if any, established by Acts authorizing or limiting expenditures by the commission remain applicable to expenditures by the department under this section.

#### **ACTION, PROCEEDING, PROSECUTION**

**SECTION 4.** The transfer of duties, functions and powers to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management by section 1 of this 2026 Act does not affect any action, proceeding or prosecution involving or with respect to the duties, functions and powers begun before and pending at the time of the transfer, except that the department is substituted for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission in the action, proceeding or prosecution.

#### **LIABILITY, DUTY, OBLIGATION**

**SECTION 5.** (1) Nothing in sections 1 to 4 of this 2026 Act relieves a person of a liability, duty or obligation accruing under or with respect to the duties, functions and powers transferred by section 1 of this 2026 Act. The Oregon Department of Emergency Management may undertake the collection or enforcement of any such liability, duty or obligation.

(2) The rights and obligations of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission legally incurred under contracts, leases and business transactions executed, entered into or begun before the operative date of section 1 of this 2026 Act accruing under or with respect to the duties, functions and powers transferred by section 1 of this 2026 Act are transferred to the department. For the purpose of succession to these rights and obligations, the department is a continuation of the commission and not a new authority.

#### **RULES**

**SECTION 6.** Notwithstanding the transfer of duties, functions and powers by section 1 of this 2026 Act, the rules of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission with respect to such duties, functions or powers that are in effect on the operative date of section 1 of this 2026 Act continue in effect until superseded or repealed by rules of the Oregon Department of Emergency Management. References in the rules of the commission to the commission or an officer or employee of the commission are considered to be references to the department or an officer or employee of the department.

**SECTION 7.** Whenever, in any uncodified law or resolution of the Legislative Assembly or in any rule, document, record or proceeding authorized by the Legislative Assembly, in the context of the duties, functions and powers transferred by section 1 of this 2026 Act, reference is made to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, or an officer or employee of the commission whose duties, functions or powers are transferred by section 1 of this 2026 Act, the reference is considered to be a reference to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management, or an officer or employee of the department who by this 2026 Act is charged with carrying out the duties, functions and powers.

#### **OPERATIVE DATE**

**SECTION 8.** (1) The Director of the Oregon Department of Emergency Management shall notify the standing or interim committees of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Counsel when the transfer described in section 1 of this 2026 Act is complete.

(2) Sections 1 to 7 of this 2026 Act become operative on the day after the date the notifications described in subsection (1) of this section are complete.

#### **DUTIES OF OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**SECTION 9.** (1) The Oregon Department of Emergency Management shall maintain a statewide registry of persons who are willing and able to volunteer to perform emergency service activities, as defined in ORS 401.358. The registry may include:

- (a) Qualified emergency service volunteers, as defined in ORS 401.358;
- (b) Persons registered as volunteers with a local government, as defined in ORS 174.116, or a tribal entity, including members of community emergency response teams and neighborhood emergency teams;
- (c) Persons experienced in construction or other skilled trades;
- (d) Persons certified by the State Fire Marshal as building evaluators under the Oregon Safety Assessment Program established under ORS 401.256; and
- (e) Other persons that the department determines are able to assist in emergency response and recovery.

(2) As a condition of inclusion on the registry, the department may require:

- (a) Evidence of relevant qualifications; and
- (b) Training related to emergency response and recovery, including incident management or command.

(3) The registry must include, for each person:

- (a) The person's name and contact information;
- (b) The physical location where the person is based; and
- (c) Specialized training or skills related to emergency response and recovery that the person has.

(4) The registry must be accessible to emergency management agencies and emergency program managers described in ORS 401.305. The department may make the registry accessible to any other persons or entities if the department determines that providing such access will enhance public safety.

(5) The department is authorized to issue badges to volunteers listed in the registry that describe a volunteer's skills, training, licenses, certifications or other information relevant to the performance of emergency service activities.

#### **FISCAL PROVISION**

**SECTION 10.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the General Fund appropriation made to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management by section 1 (2), chapter 423, Oregon Laws 2025, for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, for Preparedness and Response, is increased by \$32,600, to carry out the provisions of sections 1 and 9 of this 2026 Act.

#### **CAPTIONS**

**SECTION 11.** The unit captions used in this 2026 Act are provided only for the convenience of the reader and do not become part of the statutory law of this state or express any legislative intent in the enactment of this 2026 Act.

#### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

**SECTION 12.** This 2026 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2026 Act takes effect on its passage.

Passed by House March 3, 2026

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Julie Fahey, Speaker of House

Passed by Senate March 5, 2026

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Rob Wagner, President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M,....., 2026

Approved:

.....M,....., 2026

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Tina Kotek, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M,....., 2026

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Tobias Read, Secretary of State