

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and be referred to the Ways and Means Committee by Prior Reference
Vote:	House 5 - 0 - 0 Senate 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Cowan, Krieger, Nelson, Schaufler, Boone, George G., George L., Johnson, Morrisette, Verger
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Jim Keller, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	1/30, 2/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in the Oregon Military Department. Abolishes the Office of Emergency Management and transfers functions to the Office of Homeland Security and Management. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Similar structures in Washington, Idaho, Alaska and Montana
- Missions of the agencies are similar in training, planning efforts and responsibilities during disasters
- Would create a clear, experienced and tested command structure
- Consolidates lines of responsibility
- Preservation of civil liberties in emergencies

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Defines a “unit of government” and prohibits a unit of government from seizing firearms during a state of emergency if it is in the lawful possession of an individual.

BACKGROUND: Under current statutes, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) operates within the Department of State Police and is the emergency management agency for the State of Oregon. The Director of the Office of Emergency Management is appointed by the Superintendent of the State Police with the approval of the Governor. The Director is responsible for the coordinating and facilitating of emergency planning, preparedness, response and recovery activities with the state and local emergency services, and is designated as the sole agency of the State of Oregon to negotiate agreements with the Federal Emergency Management Agency or other appropriate federal agency for the acquisition of federal funds.

During the 2006 interim, the Office of Emergency Management and the Oregon Military Department brought forward a proposal to the Interim Committee on Emergency Preparedness which would transfer and rename the Office of Emergency Management. The office would be renamed the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and transferred to the Oregon Military Department.

House Bill 2370 repeals the statute related to the Office of Emergency Management, transfers the duties to the Oregon Military Department, renames OEM to the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and provides that the Adjutant General, with the approval of the Governor, appoint the Director of the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The bill also revises and updates the definition of “emergency” and “natural or human caused circumstances.”

2/16/2007 9:08:00 AM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.