

Senate Bill 570

Sponsored by Senators DECKERT, BATES, SCHRADER, WALKER, Representative BOONE; Senators BROWN, COURTNEY, VERGER, Representatives BOQUIST, CANNON, CLEM, COWAN, GARRARD, WITT

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**.

Requires Office of Emergency Management to prepare written animal emergency operations plan to provide for animals during major disaster or emergency.

Requires State Department of Agriculture to prepare written livestock emergency operations plan to provide for livestock during major disaster or emergency.

Allows person engaged in search and rescue operations to rescue certain animals.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to animal emergency operations plans.

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

4 **SECTION 1. The Legislative Assembly finds that:**

5 (1) **During an evacuation after a major disaster or an emergency, many pet owners are**
6 **reluctant to leave their pets and are willing to risk their lives to protect their pets.**

7 (2) **Animals are important to their owners and the presence of an animal brings comfort**
8 **to an owner and may enhance recovery for an owner distressed over injury or damage caused**
9 **by a major disaster or an emergency.**

10 (3) **Significant loss of livestock as a result of a major disaster or an emergency would**
11 **seriously threaten the economy of Oregon. Therefore, a livestock emergency operations plan**
12 **will ensure that livestock are provided for during a major disaster or an emergency.**

13 (4) **It is essential that the Office of Emergency Management and the State Department**
14 **of Agriculture work together to develop emergency operations plans for animals and live-**
15 **stock that provide for animals and livestock during a major disaster or an emergency.**

16 **SECTION 2. Sections 3 and 4 of this 2007 Act are added to and made a part of ORS 401.260**
17 **to 401.325.**

18 **SECTION 3. (1) As used in this section:**

19 (a) **"Companion animal" means a domestic animal commonly kept as a household pet.**

20 (b) **"Service animal" means an animal that assists or performs tasks for a person with**
21 **a sensory, emotional, mental or physical disability.**

22 (2) **The Office of Emergency Management, in cooperation with the State Department of**
23 **Agriculture and county and local governments, shall prepare a written animal emergency**
24 **operations plan that provides for the evacuation, transport and temporary sheltering of**
25 **companion animals and service animals during a major disaster or an emergency.**

26 (3) **The office, in developing the plan, shall consider:**

27 (a) **Allowing owners of service animals to be evacuated, transported and sheltered with**
28 **their service animals;**

29 (b) **Establishing a sufficient number of evacuation shelters equipped to temporarily shel-**

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 ter companion animals and service animals in close proximity to a human sheltering facility;

2 (c) Allowing owners and their companion animals to be evacuated together whenever
3 possible provided that human life is not endangered;

4 (d) Establishing an identification system to ensure that owners who are separated from
5 their companion animals or service animals during an evacuation are provided with all in-
6 formation necessary to locate and reclaim their animals;

7 (e) Transporting companion animals or service animals, in cages or carriers that safely
8 and securely confine the animals, in an impending major disaster or emergency provided that
9 the transport does not endanger human life;

10 (f) Recommending that animal shelters, humane societies, veterinary offices, boarding
11 kennels, breeders, grooming facilities, animal testing facilities and any other entity that
12 normally houses companion animals or service animals to create evacuation plans for the
13 animals housed at their facilities;

14 (g) Establishing mandatory minimum holding periods for companion animals or service
15 animals that are sheltered during a major disaster or an emergency; and

16 (h) Creating and promoting an educational campaign for owners of companion animals
17 or service animals that will:

18 (A) Encourage owners to plan for and incorporate their animals in the owners' personal
19 plans in the event of a major disaster or an emergency; and

20 (B) Inform owners of companion animals or service animals about the animal emergency
21 operations plan prepared under this section.

22 **SECTION 4.** A person engaged in search and rescue operations may make every practi-
23 cable attempt under the circumstances to rescue a companion animal provided that the
24 rescue attempt does not endanger human life.

25 **SECTION 5.** (1) As used in this section:

26 (a) "Emergency" has the meaning given that term in ORS 401.025.

27 (b) "Livestock" means cattle, horses, sheep and any other animals designated by the
28 State Department of Agriculture.

29 (c) "Major disaster" has the meaning given that term in ORS 401.025.

30 (2) The State Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Office of Emergency
31 Management and county and local governments, shall prepare a written livestock emergency
32 operations plan that provides for the evacuation, transport and temporary sheltering of
33 livestock during a major disaster or an emergency.

34 (3) The department, in developing the plan, shall consider:

35 (a) Methods for providing adequate food and water for livestock during a major disaster
36 or an emergency;

37 (b) Methods for providing livestock with adequate shelter or protection from harsh
38 weather conditions during a major disaster or an emergency;

39 (c) Creating and promoting an educational campaign for owners of livestock that will:

40 (A) Encourage owners to plan for and incorporate their livestock in the owners' personal
41 plans in the event of a major disaster or an emergency; and

42 (B) Inform owners of livestock about the livestock emergency operations plan prepared
43 under this section; and

44 (d) Any other methods or arrangements that the department determines would protect
45 livestock during a major disaster or an emergency.

1 **SECTION 6.** The Office of Emergency Management, pursuant to ORS 401.280, shall apply
2 to the United States Department of Homeland Security for federal funds available under the
3 federal Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006 to carry out the purposes
4 of sections 3 and 5 of this 2007 Act.

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