

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Be Adopted as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Cameron, Clem, Conger, Matthews, Sheehan, Smith J., Holvey, Whisnant
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Jan Nordlund, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/24, 4/12, 4/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Proposes revision to the Oregon Constitution to give new appropriation authority to the Governor and Legislative Assembly if a catastrophic disaster is declared. Allows the Legislature to operate with a quorum of two-thirds of those members able to attend as opposed to two-thirds of all members. Allows the Legislature to convene in a place other than the capitol. Specifies that a legislator shall be considered in attendance of a legislative session if participating through electronic means. Refers proposed revision for a vote in the next general election.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Difference between disaster response and recovery efforts
- Disaster response plans are well established for the Governor
- Cascadia Fault threat
- Focus on financial issues in the recovery period
- Vague definition of “catastrophic disaster”
- Leadership succession
- Ability to have Emergency Board take the lead in a disaster recovery effort
- Whether other states have adopted similar constitutional provisions

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Substitutes public health emergency for pandemic illness as a type of catastrophic disaster. Specifies that the Governor will manage the immediate response and the Legislative Assembly will be limited to taking actions necessary to implement the Governor’s response and aid recovery from the disaster. Specifies that a legislator shall be considered in attendance of a legislative session if participating through electronic means. Changes the referral to the next general election.

BACKGROUND: A constitutional revision requires a super majority of two-thirds in both chambers before being referred to the people for a vote. A similar measure (Senate Joint Resolution 6) was considered in 2007 but never passed out of committee.

Without such a constitutional revision, a special session would need to be called in the event of a catastrophic disaster to change laws appropriating funds to agencies. Prior legislative committees considered options for members unable to reach Salem and questioned the definitions, or lack thereof, for catastrophic disaster.