

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued****SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: None****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Cheyenne Ross, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 4/14, 4/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires State Police create and maintain database of specified information about Oregon schools, available electronically to law enforcement entities. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Active shooter situations at schools
- Law enforcement entities need to develop/train for adequate emergency response
- Need for funds to create a database

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Tragedies on school grounds go back in history a hundred years, but can be distinguished from incidents of the past two decades, due to features such as the orchestration of an horrific demonstrative act by a shooter or shooters prior to suicide, and the immediate transmission of events via modern technology. The incident at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, on April 20, 1999, is often cited as responsible for raising the nation's consciousness with regard to tragedies on school grounds, but a number of other states had already experienced similar tragedies in the mid and late 1990s, without the same media exposure, including the loss of two students and the wounding of 22 others, at Thurston High School in Springfield, Oregon, on May 21, 1998.

Legislation like Senate Bill 869 is often introduced in response to active shooter and other tragic events, and includes more recent tragedies that go beyond school grounds: the theatre shooting in Aurora, Colorado, July 20, 2012; the shooting at Clackamas Town Center, in Happy Valley, Oregon, December 11, 2012; and a mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, December 14, 2012.

An entire state's emergency response resources are brought to bear when a mass tragedy occurs, especially at a school, and adequate planning is critical to the success of that response. Not all schools or first responders may be on the same page when it comes to planning a coordinated incident response, or sharing information. Senate Bill 869 addresses one piece of the planning process, by requiring the State Police to create and maintain a database of school information for law enforcement use.