

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

MEASURE: SB 85
CARRIER: Sen. Monnes Anderson

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact
Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/10/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 03/03, 03/10

Vote:

Yeas: 4 - Boquist, Monnes Anderson, Olsen, President Courtney

Prepared By: Cheyenne Ross, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits local governments to provide financial assistance to qualifying real property owners for seismic preparedness improvements. Describes types of assistance and parameters of financial arrangements. Conditions financial agreements on written notice to, and consent of, any effected mortgagees as specified. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of supporting seismic upgrades for private buildings and infrastructure
- Same or greater threat to private buildings as public buildings if seismic event occurs
- Impact of seismic event may have on business operations and potential economic disruption
- Prohibitive expense of making upgrades; difficulty of obtaining 2nd construction loans/mortgages
- Providing local governments flexibility to assist private land owners
- Adequacy of controls and oversight of financial arrangements

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Portland area, in particular, has a high proportion of “unreinforced masonry” buildings. Many private building owners are interested in upgrading for earthquake preparedness, but the cost of doing so is prohibitive, even for those who are relatively well-to-do. There is current momentum to rehabilitate public buildings in preparation for catastrophic earthquake and tsunami events, and private buildings are another piece of resilience planning that communities must consider.

Senate Bill 85 permits local jurisdictions to develop financial programs to assist qualifying private property owners to make seismic improvements.