

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

**Fiscal:** No Fiscal Impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 04/09/15

**Action:** Do Pass.

**Meeting Dates:** 04/02, 04/09

**Vote:**

Yeas: 6 - Boone, Esquivel, Evans, Lively, Parrish, Piluso

Exc: 1 - Huffman

**Prepared By:** Bryan Guiney, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

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

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Oregon Resilience Task Force recommendations
- Provisions of measure

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Portland area, in particular Old Town and Chinatown, have a high percentage of “unreinforced masonry” buildings. Many private building owners are interested in retrofitting for earthquake preparedness, but the cost of doing so is prohibitive. There is current momentum to harden 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.