

House Resolution 5

Sponsored by Representative BOONE (at the request of Oregon Resilience Task Force)

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**.

Recognizes risks and susceptibility of Oregon to catastrophic damage and loss of life resulting from megathrust earthquakes and tsunamis associated with Cascadia fault. Urges creation and legislative consideration of Oregon Resilience Plan and recommendations on responses to Cascadia megathrust earthquakes and tsunamis.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas Oregon is known to be seismically active, with geological faults creating earthquake
3 hazards in most of the state, including its most highly populated counties; and

4 Whereas the most serious risks linked to earthquakes in Oregon are associated with the
5 Cascadia fault, recognized as one of the world's most dangerous faults and capable of generating
6 megathrust earthquakes at least 1,000 times more powerful than the magnitude 6.8 Nisqually,
7 Washington, earthquake of February 2001 and producing associated tsunamis capable of affecting
8 extensive areas of the Oregon coast; and

9 Whereas geological evidence documents about 41 earthquakes of magnitude 8 and larger on
10 sections of the Cascadia fault during the last 10,000 years, yielding an average interval between
11 events of about 240 years; and

12 Whereas the most recent megathrust earthquake on the Cascadia fault, estimated to be about
13 magnitude 9, occurred on January 26, 1700; and

14 Whereas many of the earthquakes on the Cascadia fault have been separated by intervals
15 shorter than the time elapsed since the most recent Cascadia earthquake; and

16 Whereas an earthquake of magnitude 8 or larger and its associated tsunami would have devas-
17 tating impacts to coastal communities and throughout western Oregon, causing thousands of casu-
18 alties and premature deaths and inflicting tens of billions of dollars in physical damage that would
19 have crippling impacts on the state's economy; and

20 Whereas policies now in place are insufficient to protect citizens and businesses in Oregon from
21 the ground shaking and waves associated with a Cascadia megathrust earthquake and to ensure a
22 smooth economic recovery after that event; now, therefore,

23 **Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Oregon:**

24 That concern for the protection of life and the resumption of commerce should guide the State
25 of Oregon in the development and implementation of resilience policies that address the risks posed
26 by a Cascadia megathrust earthquake and tsunami; and be it further

27 Resolved, That Oregon's most forward-thinking policies and programs to advance resilience to
28 earthquakes include the Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program, fully enacted with general obligation
29 bond funding by the 75th Legislative Assembly in 2009, and the establishment of the Task Force on
30 Resilience Plan Implementation in 2013; and be it further

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 Resolved, That the strengthening of collapse-prone public structures, including, but not limited
2 to, K-12 schools, community colleges and public safety facilities, should be recognized by the Gov-
3 ernor and Legislative Assembly as top investment priorities in this state's capital budget; and be it
4 further

5 Resolved, That seismic improvements to K-12 schools, community colleges and public safety fa-
6 cilities funded by Seismic Rehabilitation Grants should be recognized with placards affixed to the
7 reinforced structures; and be it further

8 Resolved, That this state's investment in Seismic Rehabilitation Grants and in other programs
9 and resources to accomplish seismic upgrades of public buildings should be expanded to the extent
10 fiscal prudence allows; and be it further

11 Resolved, That this state should make investments in additional evacuation options for Oregon
12 coastal communities that cannot ensure adequate protection of their residents and visitors from
13 tsunamis because of distance from safe ground; and be it further

14 Resolved, That this state should make investments necessary to establish a Critical Transpor-
15 tation Infrastructure providing reliable lifelines for emergency response and economic recovery in
16 the aftermath of a Cascadia earthquake and tsunami; and be it further

17 Resolved, That this state should make investments necessary to establish a Critical Energy
18 Infrastructure comprising transmission networks for electricity, liquid fuels and natural gas hard-
19 ened to withstand a Cascadia earthquake and tsunami; and be it further

20 Resolved, That seismic resilience should be viewed as a necessary complement to environmental
21 sustainability and endorsed as a priority by the Governor and the Legislative Assembly; and be it
22 further

23 Resolved, That the Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission should lead and coordinate
24 preparation of an Oregon Resilience Plan that reviews policy options, summarizes relevant reports
25 and studies by state agencies and makes recommendations on policy direction to protect lives and
26 keep commerce flowing during and after a Cascadia earthquake and tsunami; and be it further

27 Resolved, That the commission should enlist the participation of the Governor's public safety
28 advisor, state agencies, commissions and other advisory bodies, as needed, to assemble an integrated
29 view of current state capabilities and gaps in resilience planning; and be it further

30 Resolved, That the Oregon Resilience Plan and recommendations should be delivered to the
31 Legislative Assembly no later than February 28, 2017, so that the inevitable natural disaster of a
32 Cascadia megathrust earthquake and tsunami does not cause an unprecedented catastrophe for the
33 State of Oregon.

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