

HB 2895 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$1,000,000 General Fund dollars to the Department of Education for seismic needs assessments in 27 school districts where same have not yet been conducted. Declares an emergency, effective July 1, 2017.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact

REVENUE: May have revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon faces a serious statewide risk from earthquake hazards. The Cascadia Subduction Zone looms offshore along the entire state coastline. The risk of tsunamis along the coast and ground shaking inland present significant challenges to emergency planners, especially since most of the buildings in Oregon were built long before a 1993 statewide building code revision that specifically mandated seismic design standards. A 2007 survey conducted by the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries listed more than 1,000 school buildings in Oregon at high or very high risk of collapse in a major earthquake and identified 27 school districts as not having a seismic assessment. Oregon has a web-based statewide inventory of public education buildings rated for seismic risk. Oregon also has a voter-authorized and funded grant program to finance seismic upgrades of public schools on a risk-prioritized basis. To receive a grant, however, a seismic assessment must first be conducted and it can be financially challenging for smaller school districts.

House Bill 2895 appropriates \$1,000,000 to the Department of Education for seismic needs assessment in the 27 school districts in Oregon that have not yet conducted them.