

SB 850 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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Meeting Dates: 4/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Placeholder "relating to resilience planning."

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

[-2 amendment] Replaces original measure. Directs the Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission to create a volunteer committee or committees to assist with its work, as specified; primarily to investigate issues related to the provision of earthquake insurance to residential property owners, and mass care and displacement. Directs agencies with subject matter expertise to offer supplemental staff support. Requires reports submitted to State Resilience Officer by September 30, 2018. Sunsets January 2, 2019. Declares emergency, takes effect on passage.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission (or Earthquake Commission, or OSSPAC) was established by Senate Bill 96 in 1991 to promote earthquake and tsunami awareness and preparedness. It is required to submit a report to the Governor every two years, and in February of 2013, it issued the Oregon Resilience Plan (the Plan). The Plan exceeds 300 pages and contains more than 140 recommendations, emphasizing the importance of a sustained effort, perhaps over the course of fifty years, to make ongoing earthquake and tsunami preparations. Soon after the Plan was released, the Legislature enacted Senate Bill 33, creating a task force to study implementation of Plan recommendations, and to prioritize issues for legislative action. The task force issued its recommendations in October of 2014, which led to the introduction of a number of legislative concepts during the 2015 regular legislative session; the top recommendation being to create the position of State Resilience Officer (SRO) to organize and centralize implementation efforts. House Bill 2270 (2015) created the office, which was filled by the Governor's appointee in 2016.

Senate Bill 850, if amended, would require OSSPAC to create committees staffed by a number of state agencies, and report to the SRO on issues related to residential earthquake insurance and mass care and displacement.