

HB 2687 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Prepared By: Bradley Volk, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates a grant program administered by the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and funded by Article XI-Q bonds up to \$10 million, to enable the purchase and distribution of emergency preparedness equipment throughout the state by local governments, special government bodies, and private organizations that qualify for federal tax-exempt status. Directs the Homeland Security Council to develop a list of needed equipment. Exempts equipment acquisition from the Public Contracting Code. Requires OEM and the grant recipient to enter into an agreement. Directs OEM to conduct inspections as specified. Requires recipients to maintain federal tax benefits related to tax-exempt bonds, and to indemnify the state in case of loss of such benefits. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

Local jurisdictions may not have the resources to obtain needed emergency preparedness equipment. A central part of emergency preparedness planning for the state is the understanding that the Cascadia subduction zone, an active earthquake fault line running from northern California to Canada, creates a potentially devastating risk of loss of life and property. A large off shore earthquake and corresponding tsunami could strike the state at any time. The state is presently not prepared for such events.

House Bill 2687 creates a grant program funded by bonds as authorized by Article XI-Q of the Oregon Constitution to distribute or purchase preparedness equipment.