

HB 2886 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: 2/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to develop and implement a strategy to select and outfit suitable public places for emergency response and recovery purposes in coordination with other state and local entities. Creates the Oregon Public Places Are Safe Places Investment Fund to receive unspecified appropriations for continuous distribution to OEM.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

States declare emergencies when federal and state resources are needed to supplement local resources in the face of an imminent threat or its aftermath. An emergency declaration puts a state's emergency operations plans into effect in order to coordinate and direct response and recovery efforts that can include private entities and volunteer networks, and the deployment of National Guard troops. In Oregon, as in most states, the Governor has plenary authority under a declaration of emergency, to expend necessary funds and assume control over policing and all executive branch agencies in effected areas, including commandeering the assistance of other public and quasi-public entities, and suspending or subordinating other government functions in order to re-purpose personnel, equipment, property and facilities in response to an emergency.

House Bill 2886 requires the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to develop a process to select and outfit public places for use in emergencies, and establishes a corresponding accounting structure to receive funds. The measure provides OEM with broad discretion to develop and implement a strategy, in coordination with other appropriate state and local entities, and authorizes rulemaking to that end.