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Prepared by: Krista Dauenhauer
Reviewed by: Steve Bender, Doug Wilson
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Measure Description:

Directs the Department of Education (ODE) to develop curriculum related to earthquake and tsunami safety for students in kindergarten through grade twelve.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Office of the Governor, Department of Education, School Districts

Analysis:

This fiscal impact statement is for the purpose of transmitting the measure from the House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. The bill requires the Department of Education (ODE) to develop curriculum related to earthquake and tsunami safety for students in kindergarten through grade twelve. Each school district is directed to implement the curriculum unless the district opts out by sending a written notice to the State Resilience Officer. Minimum requirements for school emergency procedure instruction are revised from thirty minutes each month to four hours each school year. Furthermore, the standards for emergency procedures taught in school districts is expanded to include information on how to respond in the aftermath of an emergency, specifically on the days and weeks after a natural disaster. The bill has a blank General Fund (GF) appropriation clause to ODE for the 2017-19 biennium for the purpose of funding the new curriculum development.

ODE plans to hire a contractor to develop the curriculum specified by the bill; including six different online video training modules for different age groups: Kindergarten, First and Second, Third and Fourth, Fifth and Sixth, Seventh and Eighth, and High School. This work is assumed to require 1,400 hours of contractor work at an estimated cost of \$56,980 in the 2017-19 biennium. Costs to ODE related to supervising and corresponding with the contractor, as well as any associated rulemaking, are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgetary parameters.

Costs associated with increased workload to the State Resilience Office in the Office of the Governor are minimal and absorbable within existing budgetary parameters.

Further Analysis Required

The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) is in the process of estimating the costs to school districts related to teacher training and increased demand on classroom time for the new curriculum. The amount of this impact is still being determined. A more complete fiscal analysis on the bill will be prepared as the measure is considered in the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.