

SB 850 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Boquist

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Action Date: 04/18/17

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 4-0-0-0

Yeas: 4 - Boquist, Monnes Anderson, Olsen, President Courtney

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: C. Ross, LPRO Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission to create volunteer committee or committees to assist with its work, as specified, primarily to investigate issues related to 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 report to State Resilience Officer by September 30, 2018. Sunsets January 2, 2019. Declares emergency, takes effect on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History and momentum behind statewide disaster planning
- Roles of State Resilience Officer and Earthquake Commission
- Organizing meetings and gathering information without requiring legislation

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

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 (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 legislation 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 legislation during the 2015 legislative session to create the position of State Resilience Officer (SRO) to organize and centralize implementation efforts.

Senate Bill 850-A requires OSSPAC to create committees to assist with its work on emergency preparedness issues, particularly in the areas of residential earthquake insurance and mass care and displacement, and report to the SRO.