

HB 2206 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Office of Emergency Management to study and make recommendations regarding possible improvements to operations of Office. REquires Office to submit report on findings by January 1, 2021.

PLACEHOLDER LANGUAGE - SEE "EFFECT OF AMENDMENT" SECTION BELOW

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces original measure. Directs Department of Consumer and Business Services to administer statewide program to evaluate condition of buildings after an emergency and determine which buildings may be safely occupied. Directs Department to work with local governments to designate local program coordinators to implement program and allows Department to authorize local governments to create local programs to contract with evaluators prior to emergency. Authorizes Department to enter into mutual-aid agreements with other states. Grants rulemaking authority to administer and implement provisions of measure.

BACKGROUND:

The coast of the Pacific Northwest has, for thousands of years, experienced periodic, catastrophic seismic events related to the Cascadia subduction zone (CSZ), which extends from northern California to British Columbia.

However, it was not until the 1980s when scientists recognized the CSZ as an active fault that poses a major threat to Oregon. Since then, building codes have been updated, and state and regional preparations have been undertaken to prepare Oregon citizens and the state's infrastructure and governments to better sustain through a potential earthquake, and also to be better able to recover following such an event.

The Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Committee (OSSPAC) defines the goal of seismic resilience as follows: "Oregon citizens will not only be protected from life-threatening physical harm, but because of the risk reduction measures and pre-disaster planning, communities will be able to recover more quickly and with less continuing vulnerability following a Cascadia subduction zone earthquake and tsunami."