

HB 2229 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: 3/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires school districts to provide instruction and drills on how to prepare for and survive after natural disasters. Directs Department of Education to develop curriculum relating to earthquake and tsunami safety. Requires school districts to implement curriculum unless districts provide written notice to State Resilience Officer. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

NOTE - measure has subsequent referral to Committee on Ways and Means

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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."

House Bill 2229 requires school districts to provide instruction and drills on how to prepare for and survive after natural disasters, and requires the Oregon Department of Education to develop a curriculum relating to earthquake and tsunami safety.