

## **HB 2208 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness**

---

**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 3/14

---

#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes Unreinforced Masonry Seismic Safety Program within Oregon Business Development Department to issue grants for improving seismic safety, stability, and resiliency of qualifying unreinforced masonry and unreinforced concrete buildings. Establishes Oregon Unreinforced Masonry Seismic Safety Fund for program. Authorizes issuance of lottery bonds during 2019-2021 biennium to finance program. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

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

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-1 Adds eligible properties having geographic diversity within the state to list of grants receiving priority. Revises language related to reduction of grant amount based on amount of state, federal, or other grant moneys or tax credits received.

#### **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."