

HB 2650 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: 3/7, 3/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$3.2 million from the General Fund to the Oregon Military Department for purposes of expanding and increasing access to the statewide 2-1-1 system. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Unable to provide 24-hour coverage for 2-1-1 with current funding level
- Overview of services connected to 2-1-1
- Proposed location of regional coordinators
- Methods of outreach and public awareness for 2-1-1 service
- Examples of people helped by services through 2-1-1
- Need for annual report on program to Legislative Assembly

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The phone number "2-1-1" is the three-digit dialing code assigned by the Federal Communications Commission for consumer access to community information and referral services. Individuals can call this number to receive information and assistance with supplemental food and nutrition programs; shelter and housing options; utilities assistance; emergency information and disaster relief; employment and education opportunities; services for veterans; health care, vaccination, and health epidemic information; addiction prevention and rehabilitation programs; reentry help for ex-offenders; support groups for individuals with mental illnesses or special needs; and a safe, confidential path out of physical/emotional domestic abuse.