

HB 2208 -3 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, 4/4

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:

- Large number of such buildings throughout state, with largest concentration in Portland
- Elements of a retrofit for an unreinforced masonry building
- Many residents will be displaced following a major seismic event
- Need for report to Legislative Assembly

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 Replaces original measure. Directs Business Development Department to administer an Unreinforced Masonry Seismic Safety Program to award competitive annual grants for improving seismic stability of eligible properties and promoting improvements in seismic safety and resiliency. Outlines criteria for grant priority. Limits annual grants for each eligible property to the lesser of 35 percent of total eligible cost or \$1.5 million. Directs Department to adopt formula for making grants that reserves at least 25 percent for buildings outside Portland urban growth boundary. Establishes the Oregon Unreinforced Masonry Seismic Safety Fund within the State Treasury and continuously appropriates money within to Department for program. Authorizes issuance of lottery bonds for up to \$20 million in net proceeds for deposit into Fund. Establishes legislative findings. Requires Department to report to Legislative Assembly regarding program by September 15, 2021. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

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."