

HB 2535 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: 2/21, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates the Task Force on Disaster Response and Recovery. Directs the Task Force to study and recommend legislation to develop a program of upgrades to critical infrastructure in order to increase disaster resiliency. Sunsets December 31, 2020. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 2535 establishes a 31-member Task Force on Disaster Recovery, to include four legislators (two of whom must be the chairs of the House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness and the Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness), plus a representative of the Oregon Judicial Department; the remaining 26 members are appointed by the Governor to represent state agencies and local governments.

The Task Force is directed prepare recommendations for development of a sustainable program of upgrades to critical state infrastructure and facilities in order to improve disaster resiliency; this may include a prioritized list of facilities to upgrade, construction requirements, a plan for energy self-sufficiency following a disaster, and a list of potential staging areas for response equipment and personnel.

The Oregon Office of Emergency Management is directed to provide staffing for the Task Force, though the Task Force is authorized to consult with any other advisors it deems necessary. The measure directs the Task Force to report to the Legislative Assembly by December 1, 2020, with findings and recommendations for legislation.