

HB 2229 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Action Date: 04/02/19

Action: Do pass with amendments
and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 8-0-0-0

Yeas: 8 - Evans, Findley, Lewis, Meek, Neron, Wallan, Wilde, Zika

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/14, 4/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Education to establish and administer a pilot program to assist school districts in age-appropriate instruction on natural disasters. Sunsets January 2, 2025. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Department of Education for curriculum development. Declares emergency, takes effect July 1, 2019.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Whether such requirement would interfere with existing activities such as fire drills
- Impacts of natural disasters on children
- Cost of curriculum development
- Capacity of schools to accommodate additional curriculum

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces original measure.

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 a potential earthquake, and to improve the response to and recovery from 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-A provides for the creation of a pilot program to assist school districts in age-appropriate education regarding natural disasters.