

HB 2206 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Action Date: 04/04/19

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (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

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/14, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Office of State Fire Marshal to administer statewide program to evaluate condition of buildings after an emergency and determine which buildings may be safely occupied. Directs Office to work with local governments to designate local program coordinators to implement program. Authorizes Office to enter into mutual-aid agreements with other states. Grants rulemaking authority to administer and implement provisions of measure.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of assessing buildings in post-disaster response
- Building code no longer requires post-earthquake examinations
- Requirement for receiving federal funds

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 an earthquake, and also 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.