

HB 2208 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Action Date: 04/09/19

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

Vote: 7-1-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Evans, Findley, Lewis, Meek, Neron, Wilde, Zika

Nays: 1 - Wallan

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/14, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

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

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 withstand 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.