

SB 1537 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On General Government and Emergency Preparedness

Prepared By: C. Ross, Counsel

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes issuance of Article XI-Q bonds sufficient to produce \$7.5 million net proceeds plus cover related costs, for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to disburse to the University of Oregon (UofO) to complete construction of ShakeAlert earthquake early warning seismic stations by June 30, 2023. Requires written progress reports from UofO to the State Resilience Officer (SRO) and the Legislative Fiscal Officer every six months starting July 1, 2021.

Creates 15-member advisory committee within and appointed by the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), and staffed by OEM to the extent funding is available, to assist with required educational outreach to raise public awareness about ShakeAlert and earthquake preparedness as specified in the measure. Sunsets advisory committee January 2, 2024. Appropriates \$375,000 General Fund dollars to OMD for this purpose.

Creates a task force comprised of at least seven members, appointed and staffed by OEM, to study and advise OEM on the development and administration of a program, in partnership with others, to enable at least 250,000 households in Oregon to be self-sufficient for at least two weeks following catastrophic disaster. Sunsets task force January 2, 2024. Appropriates \$2.7 million General Fund dollars to the Oregon Military Department (OMD) for this purpose (and for staging area grant program below).

Requires the Homeland Security Council (the Council) to identify 10 staging areas for emergency services in consultation with OEM, the SRO, and others. Requires the Council to determine specified requirements for staging areas and periodically revise same. Requires and authorizes OEM to administer a grant program to maintain these areas, as specified, and accomplish corresponding rulemaking. Requires OEM to award grants to ensure a specified staging area and incident management team are operational by September 22, 2022. Requires OEM to develop strategic plan by August 31, 2022, for four additional specified teams each biennium for the next five, beginning July 1, 2023. Appropriates \$2.7 million General Fund dollars to OMD for this purpose (and for task force on household self-sufficiency above).

Requires Water Resources Department (WRD) to evaluate integrity of dams and authorizes WRD to contract-out for same. Creates 11-member task force, staffed and appointed by WRD in consultation with the Governor, to assist with prioritizing repairs, evaluating funding, and other projects. Requires task force to report to the Legislature as specified, by March 1, 2021. Sunsets task force January 2, 2022. Appropriates \$2 million General Fund dollars to WRD for this purpose.

Requires the Oregon Resilience Plan (the Plan) to be updated by November 30, 2021. Directs the Earthquake Commission to update the Plan concerning coastal communities, in consultation with the SRO. Directs SRO to incorporate certain elements into the Plan, in consultation with Portland State University. Requires the Earthquake Commission to "initiate a public process" to update tsunami inundation zone boundaries in consultation with the Department of Land Conservation and Development, the Department of Geology and Mineral industries, and OEM. Requires SRO to create assessment scorecards. Appropriates \$125,000 General Fund dollars to the SRO.

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Declares emergency, effective on passage.

Fiscal Impact statement issued.

Revenue Impact: No statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Cascadia subduction zone science has been accumulating and developing since the 1990s. The Legislature created the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission (OSSPAC) with Senate Bill 96 in 1991. OSSPAC's first report after the Tohoku earthquake off the coast of Japan 2011, issued in February of 2013, was comprehensive and urgent. This report is the Oregon Resilience Plan (the Plan). It contains more than 140 recommendations and emphasizes the importance of long-term statewide, regional, and nationally-coordinated efforts, perhaps over the course of fifty years, to make ongoing earthquake and tsunami preparations for an inevitable "megathrust" earthquake that will occur off the coast of the Pacific Northwest. Soon after the Plan was released, the Legislature enacted Senate Bill 33 (2013), creating a task force to prioritize issues for legislative action. The task force's first recommendation, issued in October of 2014, was to create the position of State Resilience Officer (SRO) within the executive branch to unify and centralize implementation efforts. This recommendation was enacted in 2015 through House Bill 2270 and an SRO was appointed in the fall of 2016.

In 2017, OSSPAC was tasked with studying the next two highest implementation priorities: mass care and shelter, and residential earthquake insurance, via Senate Bill 850. OSSPAC issued its findings in September of 2018. Other initiatives have included Senate Bill 1512 (2016) to fund personnel and seismic studies that support use of the Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program; Senate Bill 1523 (2016) to target funds for fuel storage facilities along designated critical transportation routes to enable emergency access; House Bill 2687 (2017) to provide grants to distribute emergency equipment at the local level; and House Bill 3427 (2017) requiring emergency action planning between the owners of certain high hazard dams and state and local partners. In addition to governmental efforts, Oregon's private sector and especially volunteer organizations, particularly in Oregon's coastal communities, have been tenacious and collaborative in their approaches to improve emergency preparedness.

Senate Bill 1537 advances a number of the Governor's emergency preparedness priorities with broad stakeholder involvement: completion of the ShakeAlert earthquake early warning system, standing-up emergency services staging areas on a graduated basis, prioritizing dam assessment and repair, developing a program to assist Oregonians with self-sufficiency in the immediate aftermath, and updating the Oregon Resilience Plan.