

SB 363 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$1,600,000 General Fund dollars to the Oregon Military Department (OMD) for distribution to counties for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021 for acquisition of analog encoders for certain emergency purposes. Appropriates \$300,000, for same biennium, for distribution to Oregon Public Broadcasting for specified system upgrades. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2021.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's Emergency Alert System (OEAS) disseminates information during local and statewide emergencies. County and state emergency managers are able to utilize broadcasting equipment to communicate critical messages, like emergency alerts, to the public and to specific audiences nationally, statewide and locally. Before 9/11, OEAS was based on a series of encoders and decoders at the local level capable of transmitting and receiving information without electricity or the internet. In response to the events of 9/11, the system was overwhelmed which lead to the development of a nationwide Common Alerting Protocol (CAP). In the aftermath of a catastrophic event, like a Cascadia earthquake, when electricity and internet are compromised or unavailable, state and local authorities will rely on a potentially outdated analog system to communicate critical information.

Senate Bill 363 appropriates \$1,600,000 General Fund dollars to the Oregon Military Department (OMD) for acquisition of certain emergency response broadcasting equipment and system upgrades.