

**SB 363 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness**

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**Action Date:** 03/18/21

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

**Vote:** 3-1-0-0

**Yeas:** 3 - Manning Jr, Patterson, Thomsen

**Nays:** 1 - Linthicum

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Regina Wilson, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/2, 3/16, 3/18

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Appropriates \$1,400,000 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 and radio equipment 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:**

- Reliability of emergency alert system
- Broadcast equipment needs in counties
- How emergency alert systems enhance communities' emergency response capabilities

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Decreases General Fund appropriation from \$1,600,000 to \$1,400,000.

**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 led 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when electricity and internet are compromised or unavailable, state and local authorities will rely on a potentially outdated analog system to communicate critical information.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 A appropriates \$1,400,000 out of the General Fund to the Oregon Military Department (OMD) for the acquisition of certain emergency response broadcasting equipment and system upgrades.