House Bill 2235

Sponsored by Representative WILDE (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure as introduced.

Directs Office of Emergency Management to study and make recommendations regarding workforce levels necessary to respond to emergencies. Directs office to submit report on findings by December 1, 2021.

Directs Office of Emergency Management to study and make recommendations regarding strategies to meet recommended workforce levels. Directs office to submit report on findings by September 1, 2022.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to emergency workforce needs; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) The Office of Emergency Management shall study and make recommendations regarding the emergency workforce needs of the state in the event of major emergencies including an earthquake of magnitude 9.0 or greater, a fire season similar or greater in scale than the 2020 fire season, a pandemic similar or greater in scale than the 1918 influenza pandemic, a large tsunami and widespread civil unrest.

(2) The report must include, at a minimum, estimates of workforce needs for:

(a) Urban search and rescue;
(b) Firefighting;
(c) Unemployment assistance;
(d) 211 operators;
(e) Social service providers;
(f) Medical services, including emergency medical services;
(g) Provision of shelter;
(h) Maintenance of communications;
(i) Food distribution;
(j) Crowd control;
(k) Traffic management; and
(L) Law enforcement.

(3) In developing the estimates described in subsection (2) of this section, the office shall assume that no regional or national assistance will be made available.

(4) The report must describe workforce assistance that has historically been made available from regional or national resources in previous emergencies.

(5) The office shall submit a report on the findings of the study to an appropriate committee or interim committee of the Legislative Assembly no later than December 1, 2021.

SECTION 2. (1) The Office of Emergency Management shall study and make recommen-
dations regarding strategies to meet the workforce levels recommended in the study conducted under section 1 of this 2021 Act, including training requirements.

(2) The report must consider, at a minimum, the following resources:

(a) Private contractors;

(b) Training of public officials to perform emergency functions;

(c) Volunteers and temporary workforce;

(d) The Oregon National Guard; and

(e) Reserve police officers and volunteer fire departments.

(3) The report must include recommendations for strategies to develop and maintain volunteer and temporary workforces.

(4) The report must include estimates of biennial funding requirements to maintain the readiness of an emergency workforce.

(5) The office shall submit a report on the findings of the study to an appropriate committee or interim committee of the Legislative Assembly no later than September 1, 2022.

SECTION 3. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect on its passage.