

SB 962 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs

Prepared By: Beverly Schoonover, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/23, 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) to develop and implement a grant program to distribute funding for emergency preparedness coordinators in counties. Establishes eligibility requirements. Directs OEM to award grants to selected applicants in an amount sufficient to fund a county emergency preparedness coordinator for one biennium. Directs OEM, when awarding grants, to seek to maximize the overall emergency preparedness in the state, given geographic differences in types and severity of potential emergencies. Appropriates unspecified amount of funding to OEM.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program makes grants to states to assist state, local, tribal, and territorial governments in preparing for all hazards, as authorized by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.). The Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) applies to FEMA for EMPG program funds on behalf of the State of Oregon, and local and tribal emergency management agencies are eligible for grant funds. There is a cost-matching requirement for EMPG funds which requires applicants to dedicate not less than 50% of the total project cost in cash or in in-kind funds.

Senate Bill 962 requires OEM to develop and implement a grant program to distribute state funds to counties for emergency preparedness coordinators. Counties are eligible for funding if an emergency management agency at the county is currently funded through the EMPG program and if there are no cities within the county that have established an established emergency management agency. The department is directed to award biennial grant awards and will consider geographic differences and severity of emergency risk for grant awards.