

HB 2854 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Action Date: 03/23/23

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

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Conrad, Dexter, Evans, Grayber, Hieb, Lewis, Tran

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/7, 3/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Oregon Public Assistance Grant Account within the Oregon Disaster Response Fund and continuously appropriates moneys in the Account to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management for funding to state agencies, local governments, special governmental bodies, federally recognized Indian tribes, and nonprofit organizations for specified emergency response activities. Establishes the Oregon Individual Assistance Grant Account within the Oregon Disaster Response Fund and continuously appropriates moneys in the Account to the department to provide: assistance to individuals and households for basic emergency assistance costs; crisis counseling services; disaster case management services; and grants to locally established long-term recovery groups.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Committee amendment
- How grants might be prioritized
- Whether grants could be used as emergency funds
- Significant needs after recent disasters

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Emergency Management (ODEM) is tasked with maintaining and coordinating a statewide, multilevel system of services for emergency, disaster, and search and rescue communications. The department administers the State 9-1-1 Program, awards grants to local governments for resilience and emergency management purposes, and houses both the Drought Council and the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission.

The Oregon Disaster Response Fund, like the ODEM management, was originally housed within the Oregon Military Department prior to the passage of House Bill 2927 (2021), which made ODEM a stand-alone agency and transferred control of the Fund to ODEM from the Oregon Military Department. House Bill 2854 A establishes two new accounts within the Fund, both intended to address unmet needs during and after state-declared emergencies. The first, The Oregon Public Assistance Grant Account, is intended to provide assistance to local governments and other public and private entities; the second, the Oregon Individual Assistance Grant Account, is intended to provide assistance to households and individuals.