House Bill 2851

Sponsored by Representative EVANS; Representative LEWIS (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 Oregon Business Development Department to develop registry of small businesses interested in receiving communications relating to emergency management. Directs department to use registry to communicate information relating to emergency management to small businesses.

Directs department to develop and implement program to provide grants and assistance to small businesses to strengthen emergency resilience.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to emergency management; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. (1) The Oregon Business Development Department, in collaboration with the Secretary of State, shall develop a registry of small businesses that are interested in receiving communications from the department related to emergency preparedness, response and recovery.

(2) The department, in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Emergency Management and county, city and tribal emergency management agencies, shall use the registry to:

(a) Inform small businesses of new or ongoing programs or opportunities related to emergency management and relevant to small businesses, including the Small Business Resilience Program established under section 2 of this 2023 Act; and

(b) Regularly communicate with small businesses about emergency planning and preparedness, with the goal of integrating small businesses into the emergency management strategy of the state.

(3) The Oregon Business Development Department shall continuously conduct outreach to small businesses across this state to encourage small businesses to join the registry.

(4) As used in this section, “small business” means a business having 50 or fewer employees.

SECTION 2. (1) The Oregon Business Development Department shall develop and implement a program, known as the Small Business Resilience Program, to provide grants and assistance to small businesses to enhance the emergency resilience of this state.

(2) Through the program, the department shall:

(a) Issue grants to small businesses to pay for upgrades to equipment, materials or facilities that will strengthen the overall emergency resilience of the small businesses and the localities in which the small businesses are located; and

(b) Provide technical assistance to small businesses in navigating state and federal programs related to emergency preparedness or emergency response and recovery.

NOTE: Matter in boldfaced type in an amended section is new; matter [italic and bracketed] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in boldfaced type.
(3) The department shall consult with the Oregon Department of Emergency Management and county, city and tribal emergency management agencies in developing and managing the program.

(4) The Oregon Business Development Department may adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this section.

(5) As used in this section, “small business” means a business having 50 or fewer employees.

SECTION 3. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect on its passage.