House Bill 2859
Sponsored by Representative EVANS (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 Department of Emergency Management to develop and implement program to reimburse certain nongovernmental entities for specified costs related to volunteers.
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT
Relating to emergency volunteers; and declaring an emergency.
Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) The Oregon Department of Emergency Management shall develop and implement a program to reimburse eligible entities, as described in subsection (2) of this section, for costs described in subsection (3) of this section, in whole or in part. The department shall pay for such reimbursements from the Disaster Volunteer Assistance Fund created under section 2 of this 2023 Act.

(2) Nongovernmental entities that are responsible for disaster response and recovery within a locality are eligible for reimbursement under this section. Eligible entities under this subsection include, without limitation, community organizations active in disaster and long-term recovery groups.

(3) The department may reimburse the following costs under this section, if the costs are incurred during a disaster or in response to a disaster:
(a) Payments to volunteers for mileage, other transportation costs, per diem, lodging, childcare and supplies; and
(b) Acquisition of volunteer liability coverage.

(4) The department shall adopt rules necessary for the administration of this section.

SECTION 2. The Disaster Volunteer Assistance Fund is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. The Disaster Volunteer Assistance Fund consists of moneys appropriated, allocated, deposited or transferred to the fund by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise. Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management to make reimbursement payments under section 1 of this 2023 Act.

SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of $__ for deposit in the Disaster Volunteer Assistance Fund created under section 2 of this 2023 Act.

SECTION 4. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of $__ to carry out the provisions of section

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.

LC 3202
1 of this 2023 Act, including program development, outreach, administration and reporting.

SECTION 5. 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.