

Senate Bill 938

Sponsored by Senator GELSER BLOUIN (at the request of Lauren Gibbs)

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**.

Instructs office of State Fire Marshal to develop and distribute curriculum for adult learners that relates to fire safety.

Instructs Housing and Community Services Department, Department of Human Services and Oregon Health Authority to take certain actions related to residential fire safety. Becomes operative July 1, 2024.

Requires institutions of higher education and certain schools to take certain actions related to residential fire safety. First applies to 2024-2025 school year.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to fire safety; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 336.071.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The office of the State Fire Marshal shall develop and distribute a cur-**
5 **riculum for adult learners that relates to fire safety, including residential, recreational and**
6 **automobile fire safety.**

7 **(2) Topics in the curriculum concerning residential fire safety must include:**

8 **(a) Recognizing fire risk within the structure of a home or other residential unit, in-**
9 **cluding recognizing fire risk when considering a home or other residential unit for rent or**
10 **purchase.**

11 **(b) How to communicate with a landlord regarding fire risks, including how to commu-**
12 **nicate a landlord's obligations to mitigate fire risks.**

13 **(c) How to reduce fire risk related to behavior within homes and other residential units,**
14 **including fire risks related to supplemental power devices, space heaters, furniture place-**
15 **ment, candles, gas leaks and storage.**

16 **(d) How to safely respond to an active fire in or near a home or other residential unit,**
17 **including how to mitigate small fires, escape, contact emergency services and respond to an**
18 **evacuation order related to wildfire.**

19 **(e) The appropriate placement and maintenance of smoke detectors, carbon monoxide**
20 **detectors and fire extinguishers.**

21 **(3) Topics in the curriculum concerning recreational fire safety must include:**

22 **(a) Fire risks posed by recreational activities, including campfires, bonfires, burn piles,**
23 **incendiary devices and auto sparks.**

24 **(b) How to report fire risk to appropriate emergency personnel.**

25 **(4) Topics in the curriculum concerning automobile fire safety must include:**

26 **(a) Fire-related emergency supplies to keep in an automobile, including fire extinguishers,**
27 **flares, emergency blankets and water.**

28 **(b) Special fire safety considerations, including considerations related to carbon**

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.

1 **monoxide, for persons living in a vehicle, including a recreational vehicle or trailer.**

2 **(5) As part of the curriculum, the office shall develop:**

3 **(a) Quick reference materials, including:**

4 **(A) A fire safety checklist for use when considering a home or other residential unit for**
 5 **rent or purchase.**

6 **(B) A fire safety checklist for use when moving into a new home, which must cover**
 7 **furniture placement and electrical cord management.**

8 **(C) A fire safety checklist for recreational activities.**

9 **(D) A fire safety checklist for living in a vehicle or trailer.**

10 **(E) Recommended emergency supplies specific to residences, vehicles and outdoor recre-**
 11 **ation activities.**

12 **(b) A webinar or other online course.**

13 **(c) An assessment tool that can be implemented online and scored electronically.**

14 **(6) The materials described in subsection (5) of this section must be:**

15 **(a) Easily publicly accessible online through the office.**

16 **(b) Distributed, either in paper copies or online or both, to:**

17 **(A) All public and private post-secondary institutions.**

18 **(B) All public and private high schools in this state.**

19 **(C) The Department of Human Services.**

20 **(D) The Oregon Health Authority.**

21 **(E) The Housing and Community Services Department.**

22 **SECTION 2. The office of the State Fire Marshal shall make the materials described in**
 23 **section 1 (5) of this 2023 Act available to the Department of Human Services, the Oregon**
 24 **Health Authority and the Housing and Community Services Department on or before April**
 25 **1, 2024.**

26 **SECTION 3. The Housing and Community Services Department shall make relevant ma-**
 27 **terials described in section 1 of this 2023 Act available to persons seeking assistance in lo-**
 28 **cating housing.**

29 **SECTION 4. The Department of Human Services and the Oregon Health Authority shall:**

30 **(1) Make materials described in section 1 of this 2023 Act that are related to homeowner**
 31 **and renter safety available, at a minimum, to all clients receiving housing or residential**
 32 **support.**

33 **(2) Ensure that youth in independent living programs participate in the residential com-**
 34 **ponents of the fire safety curriculum described in section 1 of this 2023 Act within three**
 35 **months of entering independent living.**

36 **(3) Provide access to relevant materials described in section 1 of this 2023 Act to youth**
 37 **aging out of care.**

38 **SECTION 5. (1) Sections 3 and 4 of this 2023 Act become operative on July 1, 2024.**

39 **(2) The Housing and Community Services Department, the Department of Human Ser-**
 40 **vices and the Oregon Health Authority may take any action before the operative date set**
 41 **forth in subsection (1) of this section that is necessary to enable the departments and the**
 42 **authority to implement the requirements of sections 3 and 4 of this 2023 Act on and after**
 43 **the operative date set forth in subsection (1) of this section.**

44 **SECTION 6. (1) A public university, community college district or independent for-profit**
 45 **or not-for-profit institution of higher education shall:**

1 (a) Require incoming students to participate in the curriculum described in section 1 of
2 this 2023 Act during student orientation.

3 (b) Administer the assessment described in section 1 (5)(c) of this 2023 Act to the stu-
4 dents.

5 (c) Provide the results of the assessment to the students, or to the parents of students
6 that are under 18 years of age, along with information on how to access online resources
7 from the office of the State Fire Marshal for further education.

8 (d) Annually provide access to the curriculum described in section 1 of this 2023 Act and
9 the assessment described in section 1 (5)(c) of this 2023 Act to all students.

10 (2) A public university, community college district or independent for-profit or not-for-
11 profit institution of higher education that requires students to get permission to live off
12 campus shall, before granting the permission, require the students to demonstrate profi-
13 ciency on components of the assessment described in section 1 (5)(c) of this 2023 Act that
14 relate to residential fire safety.

15 (3) A public university, community college district or independent for-profit or not-for-
16 profit institution of higher education that does not require students to get permission to live
17 off campus shall provide all students living off campus with information on how to access
18 materials described in section 1 of this 2023 Act that relate to residential fire safety.

19 **SECTION 7.** (1) Section 6 of this 2023 Act becomes operative July 1, 2024.

20 (2) Section 6 of this 2023 Act first applies to the 2024-2025 school year.

21 (3) Notwithstanding the operative date set forth in subsection (1) of this section, the
22 Higher Education Coordinating Commission may take any action before the operative date
23 set forth in subsection (1) of this section that is necessary for a public university, community
24 college district or independent for-profit or not-for-profit institution of higher education to
25 prepare to implement the requirements of section 6 of this 2023 Act.

26 **SECTION 8.** ORS 336.071 is amended to read:

27 336.071. (1) All schools are required to instruct and drill students on emergency procedures so
28 that the students can respond to an emergency without confusion or panic. The emergency proce-
29 dures shall include drills and instruction on:

30 (a) Fires;

31 (b) Earthquakes, which shall include tsunami drills and instruction in schools in a tsunami haz-
32 ard zone; and

33 (c) Safety threats.

34 (2)(a) Drills and instruction on fire emergencies shall include routes and methods of exiting the
35 school building.

36 (b) Drills and instruction on earthquake emergencies shall include the earthquake emergency
37 response procedure known as “drop, cover and hold on.” A school may drill earthquake emergency
38 response procedures in addition to “drop, cover and hold on” when the school determines, based on
39 evaluation of specific engineering and structural issues related to a building, that “drop, cover and
40 hold on” may not be the most effective earthquake emergency response procedure to prevent or limit
41 injury or loss of life.

42 (c) Drills and instruction on tsunami emergencies shall include immediate evacuation after an
43 earthquake when appropriate or after a tsunami warning to protect students against inundation by
44 tsunamis.

45 (d) Drills and instruction on safety threats shall include:

1 (A) Procedures related to lockdown, lockout, shelter in place and evacuation; and

2 (B) Other appropriate actions to take when there is a threat to safety.

3 (3)(a) At least 30 minutes in each school month shall be used to instruct students on the emer-
4 gency procedures described in subsection (1) of this section.

5 (b) At least two drills on earthquakes shall be conducted each year.

6 (c) At least two drills on safety threats shall be conducted each year.

7 (d) In schools in a tsunami hazard zone, at least three drills on earthquakes and tsunamis shall
8 be conducted each year.

9 (4) All schools shall maintain all exit doors so that the doors can be opened from the inside
10 without a key during school hours.

11 (5) Units of local government and state agencies associated with emergency procedures training
12 and planning shall:

13 (a) Review emergency procedures proposed by schools; and

14 (b) Assist schools in the instruction and drilling of students in emergency procedures.

15 **(6) All schools are required to annually provide instruction to students at all grade levels**
16 **related to fire safety, using materials provided by the office of the State Fire Marshal.**

17 **(7) All high schools are required to:**

18 **(a) Provide high school seniors with training in residential fire safety, or with the com-**
19 **ponents of the curriculum described in section 1 of this 2023 Act that relate to residential**
20 **fire safety.**

21 **(b) Administer an assessment of key fire safety awareness, or the assessment described**
22 **in section 1 (5)(c) of this 2023 Act.**

23 **(c) Provide the results of the assessment to the high school seniors, or to the parents**
24 **of the high school seniors if the high school seniors are under 18 years of age, along with**
25 **information on how to access online resources from the office of the State Fire Marshal for**
26 **further education.**

27 [(6)] **(8) As used in this section, "school" means any:**

28 (a) Kindergarten through grade 12 public or private school; or

29 (b) Educational institution having an average daily attendance of 50 or more students.

30 **SECTION 9. (1) The amendments to ORS 336.071 by section 8 of this 2023 Act become**
31 **operative July 1, 2024.**

32 **(2) The amendments to ORS 336.071 by section 8 of this 2023 Act first apply to the**
33 **2024-2025 school year.**

34 **(3) Notwithstanding the operative date set forth in subsection (1) of this section, the**
35 **Department of Education may take any action before the operative date set forth in sub-**
36 **section (1) of this section that is necessary for a school district to implement the amend-**
37 **ments to ORS 336.071 by section 8 of this 2023 Act.**

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