

LC 129
2026 Regular Session
12/17/25 (DFY/ps)

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Digest: The Act puts ODEM in charge of the volunteer database known as ORVID. The Act tells ODEM to adapt the database in specified ways. (Flesch Readability Score: 67.7).

Transfers responsibility for the volunteer database known as ORVID from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management. Directs the department to adapt and maintain the database.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT

2 Relating to emergency volunteers; and declaring an emergency.

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

4

5 TRANSFER

6

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) The duties, functions and powers of the Higher
8 Education Coordinating Commission relating to the volunteer database
9 known as ORVID are imposed upon, transferred to and vested in the
10 Oregon Department of Emergency Management.

11 (2) The department shall adapt and maintain the database in a
12 manner consistent with section 9 of this 2026 Act.

13

14 RECORDS, PROPERTY, EMPLOYEES

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16 **SECTION 2.** (1) The executive director of the Higher Education Co-
17 ordinating Commission shall:

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 **(a) Deliver to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management**
2 **all records and property within the jurisdiction of the commission that**
3 **relate to the duties, functions and powers transferred by section 1 of**
4 **this 2026 Act; and**

5 **(b) Transfer to the department those employees engaged primarily**
6 **in the exercise of the duties, functions and powers transferred by**
7 **section 1 of this 2026 Act.**

8 **(2) The Director of the Oregon Department of Emergency Management**
9 **shall take possession of the records and property, and shall take**
10 **charge of the employees and employ them in the exercise of the duties,**
11 **functions and powers transferred by section 1 of this 2026 Act, without**
12 **reduction of compensation but subject to change or termination of**
13 **employment or compensation as provided by law.**

14 **(3) The Governor shall resolve any dispute between the commission**
15 **and the department relating to transfers of records, property and em-**
16 **ployees under this section, and the Governor's decision is final.**

17

18 **UNEXPENDED REVENUES**

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20 **SECTION 3. (1) The unexpended balances of amounts authorized to**
21 **be expended by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for the**
22 **biennium ending June 30, 2027, from revenues dedicated, continuously**
23 **appropriated, appropriated or otherwise made available for the purpose**
24 **of administering and enforcing the duties, functions and powers**
25 **transferred by section 1 of this 2026 Act are transferred to and are**
26 **available for expenditure by the Oregon Department of Emergency**
27 **Management for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, for the purpose**
28 **of administering and enforcing the duties, functions and powers**
29 **transferred by section 1 of this 2026 Act.**

30 **(2) The expenditure classifications, if any, established by Acts au-**
31 **thorizing or limiting expenditures by the commission remain applica-**

1 ble to expenditures by the department under this section.

2

3 **ACTION, PROCEEDING, PROSECUTION**

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5 **SECTION 4. The transfer of duties, functions and powers to the**
6 **Oregon Department of Emergency Management by section 1 of this**
7 **2026 Act does not affect any action, proceeding or prosecution involv-**
8 **ing or with respect to the duties, functions and powers begun before**
9 **and pending at the time of the transfer, except that the department**
10 **is substituted for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission in**
11 **the action, proceeding or prosecution.**

12

13 **LIABILITY, DUTY, OBLIGATION**

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15 **SECTION 5. (1) Nothing in sections 1 to 4 of this 2026 Act relieves**
16 **a person of a liability, duty or obligation accruing under or with re-**
17 **spect to the duties, functions and powers transferred by section 1 of**
18 **this 2026 Act. The Oregon Department of Emergency Management may**
19 **undertake the collection or enforcement of any such liability, duty or**
20 **obligation.**

21 **(2) The rights and obligations of the Higher Education Coordinating**
22 **Commission legally incurred under contracts, leases and business**
23 **transactions executed, entered into or begun before the operative date**
24 **of section 1 of this 2026 Act accruing under or with respect to the du-**
25 **ties, functions and powers transferred by section 1 of this 2026 Act are**
26 **transferred to the department. For the purpose of succession to these**
27 **rights and obligations, the department is a continuation of the com-**
28 **mission and not a new authority.**

29

30 **RULES**

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SECTION 6. Notwithstanding the transfer of duties, functions and powers by section 1 of this 2026 Act, the rules of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission with respect to such duties, functions or powers that are in effect on the operative date of section 1 of this 2026 Act continue in effect until superseded or repealed by rules of the Oregon Department of Emergency Management. References in the rules of the commission to the commission or an officer or employee of the commission are considered to be references to the department or an officer or employee of the department.

10 **SECTION 7.** Whenever, in any uncodified law or resolution of the
11 Legislative Assembly or in any rule, document, record or proceeding
12 authorized by the Legislative Assembly, in the context of the duties,
13 functions and powers transferred by section 1 of this 2026 Act, refer-
14 ence is made to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, or
15 an officer or employee of the commission whose duties, functions or
16 powers are transferred by section 1 of this 2026 Act, the reference is
17 considered to be a reference to the Oregon Department of Emergency
18 Management, or an officer or employee of the department who by this
19 2026 Act is charged with carrying out the duties, functions and powers.

OPERATIVE DATE

23 **SECTION 8.** (1) The Director of the Oregon Department of Emer-
24 gency Management shall notify the standing or interim committees
25 of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Counsel when the
26 transfer described in section 1 of this 2026 Act is complete.

27 **(2) Sections 1 to 7 of this 2026 Act become operative on the day after**
28 **the date the notifications described in subsection (1) of this section are**
29 **complete.**

31 DUTIES OF OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGE-

MENT

SECTION 9. (1) The Oregon Department of Emergency Management all maintain a statewide registry of persons who are willing and able to volunteer to perform emergency service activities, as defined in RS 401.358. The registry may include:

- (a) Qualified emergency service volunteers, as defined in 401.358;
- (b) Persons registered as volunteers with a local government, as defined in ORS 174.116, or a tribal entity, including members of community emergency response teams and neighborhood emergency teams;
- (c) Persons experienced in construction or other skilled trades;
- (d) Persons certified by the State Fire Marshal as building evaluators under the Oregon Safety Assessment Program established under RS 401.256; and
- (e) Other persons that the department determines are able to assist emergency response and recovery.

(2) As a condition of inclusion on the registry, the department may require:

- (a) Evidence of relevant qualifications; and**
- (b) Training related to emergency response and recovery, including incident management or command.**

(3) The registry must include, for each person:

- (a) The person's name and contact information;
- (b) The physical location where the person is based; and
- (c) Specialized training or skills related to emergency response and recovery that the person has.

(4) The registry must be accessible to emergency management agencies and emergency program managers described in ORS 401.305. The department may make the registry accessible to any other persons or entities if the department determines that providing such access

1 will enhance public safety.

2 (5) The department shall establish procedures for collaborating with
3 appropriate entities, including the Higher Education Coordinating
4 Commission, the Department of Human Services, the Oregon Health
5 Authority and local governments, for the purposes of:

6 (a) Gathering information for the registry, integrating data from
7 existing databases into the registry and regularly updating the infor-
8 mation; and

9 (b) Recruiting, training, mobilizing and deploying volunteers for
10 emergency management purposes.

11 (6) The Oregon Department of Emergency Management is author-
12 ized to issue badges to volunteers listed in the registry that describe
13 a volunteer's skills, training, licenses, certifications or other infor-
14 mation relevant to the performance of emergency service activities.

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16 CAPTIONS

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18 **SECTION 10.** The unit captions used in this 2026 Act are provided
19 only for the convenience of the reader and do not become part of the
20 statutory law of this state or express any legislative intent in the
21 enactment of this 2026 Act.

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23 EFFECTIVE DATE

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25 **SECTION 11.** This 2026 Act being necessary for the immediate
26 preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is
27 declared to exist, and this 2026 Act takes effect on its passage.