

Senate Bill 505

Sponsored by Senator SMITH DB (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**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act tells ODEM to give grants to counties to pay for emergency coordinators. The Act tells the EPAC to make a group to study the emergency readiness of counties. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.8).

Directs the Oregon Department of Emergency Management to develop and implement a grant program to distribute moneys to certain counties to fund emergency preparedness coordinators.

Directs the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council to convene a Committee on County Emergency Management to study and make recommendations regarding the capacity of counties in Oregon to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to county emergency management.

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3 Whereas it is critical for communities to prepare for disasters and other emergencies, including
4 a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami; and

5 Whereas statewide emergency preparedness is dependent on local preparedness; now, therefore,

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

7 **SECTION 1. (1) The Oregon Department of Emergency Management shall, by rule, de-**
8 **velop and implement a grant program to distribute moneys to eligible counties to fund**
9 **emergency preparedness coordinators at the county level.**

10 **(2) A county is eligible for a grant under the program if:**

11 **(a) The county is one of Clatsop, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Lane, Lincoln or Tillamook**
12 **Counties; and**

13 **(b) The emergency management agency of the county is funded by federal moneys dis-**
14 **tributed through the Emergency Management Performance Grant administered by the Fed-**
15 **eral Emergency Management Agency.**

16 **(3) The department shall prescribe the process for eligible counties to apply for a grant**
17 **under this section, including application timelines and the form and contents of an applica-**
18 **tion.**

19 **(4) The department shall award grants to selected applicants in an amount sufficient to**
20 **fund a county emergency preparedness coordinator for one biennium. In selecting counties**
21 **to be awarded grants under this section, the department shall seek to maximize the overall**
22 **emergency preparedness of this state, with consideration given to geographic differences in**
23 **types and severity of potential emergencies.**

24 **SECTION 2. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**
25 **ated to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management, for the biennium beginning July**
26 **1, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$_____ to carry out the purposes of section**
27 **1 of this 2025 Act.**

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 **SECTION 3.** (1) The Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council established under section
2 151, chapter 539, Oregon Laws 2021, shall convene a Committee on County Emergency Man-
3 agement.

4 (2) The committee must consist of not more than half of the members of the council.
5 The council shall appoint a chairperson and vice chairperson for the committee.

6 (3) The committee shall study and make recommendations regarding the capacity of
7 counties in Oregon to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies. The recom-
8 mendations must include recommendations for methods to establish dedicated funding for
9 county emergency management staff, including at least a director and deputy director of
10 emergency management in each county.

11 (4) On or before December 31, 2026, the committee shall transmit a report describing its
12 findings and recommendations to the standing or interim committees of the Legislative As-
13 sembly relating to emergency management.

14 (5) The Legislative Revenue Officer is directed to assist the Committee on County
15 Emergency Management in carrying out revenue projections and any other tasks the com-
16 mittee deems necessary for the performance of its duties.

17 **SECTION 4.** Section 3 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 2, 2027.
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