

HB 4044 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Emergency Management and Veterans

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure establishes the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management (OREM) within the Department of Human Services (DHS). It amends a provision related to the Oregon Disaster Response Fund; and establishes the Oregon Public Assistance Grant Fund and the Oregon Individual Assistance Grant Program.

Detailed Summary

- For the establishment of OREM at DHS, the measure:
 - Allows the Director of DHS to appoint a director at OREM; describes their duties
 - Describes the responsibilities and functions of OREM; requires coordination with the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) and other entities
 - Allows DHS to request OREM support the continuity of DHS programs if there is a disruption
 - Allows OREM to enter into agreements and procurements before, during and after a disruption; allows for the adoption of rules
- Adds 'human services' to the definition of emergency services in ORS 401.025.
- Amends current statute to require interest earned by the Oregon Disaster Response Fund, be credited to the fund.
- For the establishment of the Oregon Public Assistance Grant Program at the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) the measure:
 - Allows grantmaking to pay for work performed before, after or during an emergency
 - Describes how the Governor may activate and inactivate the program
 - When activated allows for grant making to counties and Tribes; describes the process for cities to apply; describes application process
 - Allows for rulemaking; provides definitions
 - Establishes the fund in the State Treasury; fund consist of money appropriated, allocated, deposited or transferred by the Legislature. Continually appropriates moneys in the account to OEM, requires OEM to ensure not more than 10 percent of the money in the account be used to pay costs for coordination and distribution of the fund.
- For the establishment of the Oregon Individual Grant Program at DHS the measure:
 - Allows grantmaking to address critical emergency-related needs of qualified individuals
 - Describes how OEM may recommend the program for activation and how the Governor may activate and inactivate the program
 - When active, allows for grant making to counties and Tribes; describes the process for cities to apply; describes application process
 - Describes the services the grant program may fund
 - Allows for rulemaking for DHS, in consultation with OEM
 - Provides definitions
 - Establishes the fund in the State Treasury; fund consist of money appropriated, allocated, deposited or transferred by the Legislature. Continually appropriates moneys into the account to OEM, allows OEM to make funding available in the account to DHS to carry out the program; requires unexpended funds be redeposited in the account.
- Requires DHS and OEM establish a data sharing agreement and protocols relating to both funds.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

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- Removes the word 'grant' from provisions related to the Oregon Individual Assistance Grant Program, to now be established as the Oregon Individual Assistance Program.
- Clarifies 'qualified' individuals may receive assistance through the program.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Oregon Department of Human Services, the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management (OREM) was established during the 2020 wildfires to address mass care, emergency evacuation, and other critical needs in Oregon's impacted communities. The new office was staffed largely by non-budgeted positions to ensure a timely response.