

HB 4121 -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, 2/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure creates statewide emergency preparedness offices and authorities to coordinate emergency management.

Detailed Summary

Establishes new offices, authorities, and advisory councils including:

- The **Oregon Statewide Preparedness Authority for Response Training and Intergovernmental Continuity of Imperative Services (SPARTICIS)** within the Department of Administrative Services (DAS)
- The **Statewide Preparedness Authority for Response Coordination (SPARC)** within the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPPST)
- The **All-Hazards Statewide Responder Database Oversight Authority** within DPSST
- The **Statewide Regional Training Office** within DPSST
- An **Advisory Board for SPARC** within DPSST
- The **Oregon Disaster Recovery Authority** within the Office of the Governor

Creates new accounts, authorities and funds including:

- The **Regional Facilities Account** in the State Treasury for DAS
- The **Regional Stockpile Support Account** in the State Treasury for DAS
- The **Strategic Partnership Account** in the State Treasury for DAS
- The **Oregon Disaster Recovery Authority** in the State Treasury for the Office of the Governor
- The **Oregon Preparedness Grant Account** in the State Treasury for the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM)
- The **Oregon Public Assistance Grant Program** at OEM
- The **Oregon Individual Grant Program** at in the State Treasury for OEM, that OEM may make available to the Department of Human Services

Creates a new grant program at SPARC, including:

- Requires SPARC to make a \$20 million dollar grant to the DPSST for a facility in Salem; and to the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council for the CORE3 center in the biennium beginning on July 1, 2028
- Allows SPARC to make two grants up to \$20 million each to recipients through a competitive process on or before July 1, 2031
- Allows SPARC to make two specific grants up to \$20 million each to recipients through a competitive process on or before July 1, 2034
- Allows the State Treasurer at the request of the Department to issue lottery bonds that produces \$40 million in net proceeds for each biennium beginning July 1, 2027; July 1, 2029; and July 1, 2033
- Repeals grant and bond programs on January 2, 2036

Other provisions of the measure include:

- Requires SPARC to develop and maintain a database called the **All-Hazards Statewide Responder Database**
- Requires the State Resiliency Officer (SRO) to report to the legislative committee related to emergency management on or before January 30, 2027, on the sufficiency of their staffing levels.

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- Requires SPARC to report to the legislative committee related to emergency management on or before January 30, 2027, on the amount of state funding necessary or advisable for operational costs for proposed grant programs.
- Requires the SRO to identify state agencies who have one or more emergency support functions identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency; requires those agencies to designate a staff member as the Emergency Management Responsible Office; requires other state agencies to designate staff member as the Continuity of Governance Responsible Officer.
- Requires counties to submit a report to the SRO once a biennium on the state of the **county's emergency preparedness**; describes requirements of the report.
- Adds to the duties of the SRO; requires reporting.
- Adds to the duties related to OEM.
- Amends statutes related to **resilience hubs and networks**; allows for the creation of new hubs; allows additional entities to create hubs; clarifies when hubs may operate.
- Updates the definition of **Resilience Networks**; expands the types of support DHS can provide hubs and networks; provides guidance for grant agreements.
- Allows facilities that receive SPARC grant funding to host **overnight training activities**, notwithstanding state or local laws.
- Allows counties, by order or resolution, waive **civil penalties** under ORS 624.992 under certain conditions.
- Requires the Interim Committee on Joint Ways and Means to identify a **sustainable, ongoing revenue source** for SPARC grants.
- Requires the Department of the State Fire Marshall conduct a study related to **paid and volunteer firefighters** ; requires a report by September 15, 2027; repeals this requirement on January 2, 2028.
- Allows that OEM may conduct **state or nationwide criminal records checks** on department employees, contractors, subcontractors, vendors or volunteers.
- Requires DHS and OEM establish a **data sharing agreement and protocols** relating to the Oregon Public Assistance Grant Program and the Oregon Individual Grant Program.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 **The -2 amendment was adopted by the Committee on 2/5, and makes the following changes in HB 4121:**

- Adds an additional \$20 million dollar SPARC grant to DPSST for a facility to operate and train individuals for the operation of the emergency communications system as defined in ORS 403.105
- Increases the amount from \$40 million to \$60 million for bonds that the State Treasurer at the request of the DPSST, may issue for SPARC grants
- Changes optional provisions to require OEM to conduct state or nationwide criminal records checks on department employees, contractors, subcontractors, vendors or volunteers

BACKGROUND:

The Legislative Assembly have passed several pieces of legislation to strengthen and bolster emergency coordination and communication efforts statewide. [House Bill 2270](#) (2015) created the Office of State Resilience (SRO) in the Governor's office to direct, implement, and coordinate seismic safety and resilience goal setting. [House Bill 2581](#) (2025) expanded the duties of the SRO to include hazards more broadly, including tsunamis, wildfires, and flooding.

[House Bill 3409](#) (2023) created a grant program and DHS to support Resilience Hubs and Networks. [House Bill 2927](#) (2021) reorganized the Office of the State Fire Marshal and elevated it to the Department of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) beginning in 2023. [Senate Bill 860](#) (2025) modified the authority of OSFM and its representatives regarding fire protection, education, emergency authorities, and investigation.