



Legislative Fiscal Office  
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**Bill Title:** Relating to emergency management.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:** Department of Human Services, Oregon Health Authority, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of Siletz, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians, Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, Department of Administrative Services, Oregon Military Department, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, Klamath Tribes, Department of the State Fire Marshal, Counties, State Treasurer, Cities, Burns Paiute Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Coquille Indian Tribe, Department of Emergency Management, Office of the Governor, Department of State Police

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:** Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - see explanatory analysis.

**Measure Description**

The measure establishes the Statewide Regional Training Office within the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST). The director of DPSST shall appoint a Statewide Regional Training Officer, who is responsible for the office.

Additionally, the measure directs the State Resilience Officer in the Office of the Governor to identify agencies responsible for support functions identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and each of those agencies must designate an employee as an Emergency Management Responsible Officer to act as a liaison between the agency and state authorities related to emergency management. The State Resilience Officer must also facilitate policy standardization between the state agencies and provide regular reports on state agency resilience policy compliance.

The measure also establishes the Oregon Disaster Recovery Authority within the Office of the Governor. The Governor must appoint at least eight individuals to the authority and seek advice of the Oregon Homeland Security Council when making such appointments. The Governor may activate the authority if the Governor declares a state of emergency. Additionally, if the authority is activated, the measure authorizes the Governor to hire additional state agency personnel, subject to the availability of funding, to perform the duties as specified in the measure. The measure creates the Oregon Disaster Recovery Authority Fund, continuously appropriated to the Office of the Governor, to cover personnel costs incurred when the authority is activated.

The measure requires ODEM to require fingerprints of persons employed or applying for employment with the department and persons who provide or want to provide services to the department. ODEM must also establish and administer a state infrastructure emergency grant program, to be known as the Oregon Public Assistance Grant Program, as specified by the measure. The grant program is subject to funding and being activated by the Governor if the requirements specified by the measure are met.

Additionally, the Department of Human Services (DHS) must establish and administer an individual grant program, to be known as the Oregon Individual Assistance Grant Program, to issue grants addressing critical emergency-related needs of qualified individuals. The grant program is subject to funding and being activated by the Governor if the requirements specified by the measure are met.

The following new accounts are created within the State Treasury to be separate and distinct from the General Fund that are continuously appropriated to ODEM for the grant program established in the measure:

Oregon Department of Emergency Management (ODEM) for grant management:

- The Oregon Preparedness Grant Account
- The Oregon Public Assistance Grant Program Account
- The Oregon Individual Assistance Grant Program Account

The measure requires the Department of the State Fire Marshal (DSFM) to conduct a study of health coverage disparities between paid and volunteer firefighters. DSFM must submit the report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to emergency management by September 15, 2027.

Lastly, the measure allows county governing bodies to waive civil penalties imposed by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) or a local health authority if the civil penalty was due to a violation that occurred during a state of emergency.

### **Fiscal Analysis**

The fiscal impact of the measure is indeterminate and dependent on if the Governor activates the programs as specified in the measure, and the level of funding provided to conduct the work required of the measure. However, for the agencies impacted by the measure, there are potential costs to develop the program framework and establish rules to have the appropriate structures in place in the event the Governor does activate the programs under an emergency declaration. With an operative date of January 1, 2027, it is assumed that to establish these programs, the impacted agencies would absorb any initial costs in the 2025-27 biennium within existing resources and include requests for additional necessary resources as part of the 2027-29 budget development process.

#### Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

The fiscal impact to DPSST is indeterminate and dependent on the fund type and funding source once any position authority is authorized.

The measure establishes the Statewide Regional Training Office within DPSST and requires the director to appoint a Statewide Regional Training Officer.

While DPSST has a current position that coordinates some statewide regional training, the agency may determine that to appropriately establish this new office a dedicated permanent full-time position (1.00 FTE) may be necessary to act as the Statewide Regional Training Officer. The estimated cost of the position, including standard position-related services and supply costs, would be approximately \$380,000 in the 2027-29 biennium, with the funding type indeterminate at this time and dependent on available resources.

#### Oregon Department of Emergency Management

The fiscal impact to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (ODEM) is indeterminate and dependent on the grant programs being activated, the level of funding provided for the grant programs required by the measure, and the level of assistance the agency will be expected to provide.

Currently, there are no state-funded public assistance or individual grant programs for disaster relief in Oregon. To provide a fiscal estimate, the agency utilized data from similar federal disaster declarations in Oregon, and

the staff resources necessary to distribute disaster relief. Using that as a proxy, the agency could potentially need seven positions (7.00 FTE) to conduct the work of the measure, at an estimated cost of about \$2.1 million. However, the staffing level and resources necessary are dependent on if an emergency is declared, the extent of the emergency, and if funds for public assistance grants are available. In the event that the agency determines that additional resources are required in the 2027-29 biennium, they will need to return to the Legislature for funding and position authority. The source and type of funds would also need to be determined.

Department of Administrative Services

The fiscal impact to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) is indeterminate.

Under the measure, the State Resilience Officer could designate DAS as an agency with responsibility for supporting emergency support functions identified by FEMA, requiring DAS to designate an employee as an Emergency Management Responsible Officer. Depending on the duties of the Emergency Management Responsible Officer position, if DAS is designated with that responsibility, it could require additional staffing and resources to help support this work.

Office of the Governor

The fiscal impact to the Office of the Governor is indeterminate.

Under the measure, the Statewide Resiliency Officer (SRO) would need to identify state agencies that need to designate an Emergency Management Responsible Officer. The measure requires the SRO to facilitate policy standardization among state agencies and provide regular reports on resilience policy compliance, organizational preparedness, and measures of emergency readiness which is not currently done by the office. The cost in the 2025-27 biennium is indeterminate and would be absorbed within existing resources. However, depending on the level of policy standardization and compliance work required to meet the standards, additional resources may be necessary. Initial estimates from the Office of the Governor included two permanent full-time positions, at approximately \$800,000 in the 2027-29 biennium, with the fund type to be determined.

Department of Human Services and Oregon Health Authority

The fiscal impact to DHS is indeterminate and dependent on the activation of grant program and the amount of grant funding to be disbursed.

The measure requires DHS to establish and administer a grant program, known as the Oregon Individual Assistance Grant Program, to address critical emergency-related needs to qualifying individuals subject to funding. The grant program requires the Governor to activate the program if specific criteria are met. The bill requires DHS to establish and administer the grant program regardless of the grant program being activated by the Governor. DHS has identified the need for staff to support policy development within the emergency management enterprise and within DHS, including policy analysis, rulemaking, drafting reports and recommendations, and engaging and liaising with external agencies and partners. It is not clear if these activities can be completed with existing staff or new staffing will be required. The unknown scope and scale of a given activation, should the Governor choose to activate the grant program, creates an indeterminate workload potential for the grant program that may require additional staffing and resources in the 2027-29 biennium.

There is an indeterminate, but assumed to be minimal fiscal impact to OHA due to the cost of supporting shared administrative services, including the Office of Financial Services, a shared services office for both Oregon Department of Human Services and Oregon Health Authority, that would be tasked with grant payments associated with the Oregon Individual Assistance Grant program, tracking, and reconciling expenditures and revenue related to the grant program, bill for and receipting of reimbursement funds from ODEM, and billing for, and collection of, potentially unspent grant funds.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

**Measure: HB 4121 - B**

Other entities

There is a minimal fiscal impact to the Department of the State Fire Marshal, Department of State Police, Oregon State Treasurer, counties and cities.

There is no fiscal impact to the Oregon's Nine Federally Recognized Tribes.

**Relevant Dates**

The measure takes effect on January 1, 2027.