

B-Engrossed House Bill 4121

Ordered by the House March 4
Including House Amendments dated February 16 and March 4

Sponsored by Representatives EVANS, GOMBERG, JAVADI; Representatives ANDERSEN, CHAICHI, GAMBA, NELSON, PHAM H, RIEKE SMITH (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. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act creates new systems and structures and changes law to improve emergency response in the state. (Flesch Readability Score: 65.1).

Creates *[statewide emergency preparedness offices and authorities]* **authority** to coordinate emergency management. *[Authorizes bonding for public safety projects.]* Requires state agencies to designate liaisons for emergency management.

Imposes duties on the Oregon Department of Emergency Management related to management of emergency preparedness assets.

Modifies the definitions of and grant requirements for Resilience Hubs and Resilience Networks.

Authorizes certain training facilities to host overnight training activities. Requires the Oregon Department of Emergency Management to obtain fingerprints of employees and contractors.

Authorizes counties to waive certain civil penalties related to food service facilities during emergencies.

Requires the Department of the State Fire Marshal to study health coverage for firefighters.

[Requires legislative committees to identify a revenue source for certain public safety programs.]

Establishes grant programs for emergencies.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to emergency management; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 401.114, 401.913 and 409.760.

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

STATEWIDE REGIONAL TRAINING OFFICE

SECTION 1. (1) The Statewide Regional Training Office is established within the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.

(2) The office is under the supervision and control of the Statewide Regional Training Officer, who is responsible for the performance of the duties, functions and powers of the office.

(3) The Director of the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training shall appoint the Statewide Regional Training Officer, who holds office at the pleasure of the director.

PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE STATE RESILIENCE OFFICER

SECTION 2. (1) The State Resilience Officer shall identify state agencies with responsibility for one or more emergency support functions identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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.

(2) Each state agency identified under subsection (1) of this section shall designate an employee of the state agency as the Emergency Management Responsible Officer. The Emergency Management Responsible Officer shall act as the primary liaison between the state agency and state authorities related to emergency management, including the Oregon Department of Emergency Management.

SECTION 3. ORS 401.913 is amended to read:

401.913. (1) The office of State Resilience Officer is created in the office of the Governor. The office of State Resilience Officer shall direct, implement and coordinate hazard safety and resilience goal setting and state agency planning and preparation to improve hazard safety and resilience, including but not limited to planning and preparation for safety and resilience during and after earthquake, tsunami, wildfire, flooding and other natural or manmade events.

(2) The State Resilience Officer shall lead statewide efforts to implement the Oregon Resilience Plan, the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and other resilience plans adopted by the state.

(3) The State Resilience Officer shall facilitate policy standardization among state agencies, prioritize investments for improving resilience posture and provide regular reports on state agency resilience policy compliance, organizational preparedness, continuity of governance procedures and measures of emergency readiness. Such reports may be made to the Governor, appropriate committees of the Legislative Assembly or relevant public safety advisory boards and commissions.

[(3)] (4) The State Resilience Officer shall lead executive branch agencies in continuity of operations planning and continuity of government planning.

[(4)] (5) The Governor shall appoint an individual to serve as the State Resilience Officer, subject to confirmation by the Senate pursuant to Article III, section 4, of the Oregon Constitution.

[(5)] (6) The legislative branch of government and the judicial branch of government shall each select an individual to monitor the effectiveness of hazard safety and resilience planning in their branch.

OREGON DISASTER RECOVERY AUTHORITY

SECTION 4. (1) The Oregon Disaster Recovery Authority is established as an advisory group within the Office of the Governor to direct emergency recovery in Oregon. The Governor shall determine the membership of the authority, subject to subsection (2) of this section.

(2) The Governor shall appoint at least eight individuals to serve as members of the authority from among state agency leadership, local emergency managers and others with expertise in emergency management. The Governor shall seek the advice of the Oregon Homeland Security Council when making appointments to the authority. Members of the authority serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

(3) If the Governor declares a state of emergency under ORS 401.165, the Governor may activate the authority. The authority remains activated until deactivated by order of the Governor. The authority may remain activated notwithstanding the termination of a state of emergency.

(4) When activated, the authority shall:

(a) Coordinate initial crisis services;

(b) Coordinate recovery and mitigation efforts throughout this state, using a framework

1 aligned with emergency support functions as defined by the Federal Emergency Management
2 Agency; and

3 (c) Coordinate the provision of emergency funding and other aid to local governments or
4 private entities.

5 (5) A majority of the members of the authority constitutes a quorum for the transaction
6 of business.

7 (6) Official action by the authority requires the approval of a majority of the members
8 of the authority.

9 (7) The Governor shall appoint one of the members of the authority to serve as chair-
10 person.

11 (8) The authority shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the Governor or
12 the chairperson. The authority may meet at times when the authority is not activated to
13 maintain readiness in the event of an emergency.

14 (9) The authority may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the authority.

15 (10) The Office of the Governor shall provide staff support to the authority.

16 (11) Members of the authority are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for
17 expenses and serve as volunteers on the authority.

18 (12) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist
19 the authority in the performance of the duties of the authority and, to the extent permitted
20 by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the
21 authority consider necessary to perform their duties.

22 **SECTION 5.** (1) If the Oregon Disaster Recovery Authority established under section 4
23 of this 2026 Act is activated pursuant to a declaration of emergency, the Governor may hire
24 additional state agency personnel under this section.

25 (2) Additional personnel hired under this section:

26 (a) May be placed at any state agency, including the Office of the Governor;

27 (b) Must perform duties related to the emergency, which may include taking over duties
28 previously performed by other state agency personnel who have been reassigned to
29 emergency-related tasks; and

30 (c) Must have their employment terminated no later than the date the authority is de-
31 activated under section 4 of this 2026 Act.

32 (3) Notwithstanding any other law relating to state government employment, additional
33 personnel hired under this section may be recruited and selected through any means the
34 Governor deems appropriate.

35 (4) The Governor's hiring authority under this section is subject to the availability of
36 funding. The compensation of additional personnel hired under this section may be paid from
37 the Oregon Disaster Recovery Authority Fund established under section 6 of this 2026 Act.

38 **SECTION 6.** The Oregon Disaster Recovery Authority Fund is established in the State
39 Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. The Oregon Disaster Recovery Au-
40 thority Fund consists of moneys appropriated, allocated, deposited or transferred to the fund
41 by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise. Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated
42 to the Office of the Governor to pay for compensation for personnel hired under section 5
43 of this 2026 Act.

44
45 **OREGON PREPAREDNESS GRANT ACCOUNT**

SECTION 7. The Oregon Preparedness Grant Account is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. The Oregon Preparedness Grant Account consists of moneys appropriated, allocated, deposited or transferred to the fund by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise. Moneys in the account are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management for providing grants to local governments, as defined in ORS 174.116, and tribal governments to support their compliance with ORS 401.305 (2).

ODEM DUTIES

SECTION 8. ORS 401.114 is amended to read:

401.114. The Oregon Department of Emergency Management shall carry out the following functions:

- (1) Coordinate emergency management functions on a regional basis within this state;
- (2) Coordinate training related to emergency response on a regional basis within this state;
- [and]
- (3) Develop and carry out emergency preparedness exercises on a statewide basis[.];
- (4) **Oversee collaboration, cooperation and coordination between the state and organizations involved in the emergency stockpile plan described in ORS 401.111, the emergency preparedness equipment grant program described in ORS 401.551 and other stockpile or emergency preparedness programs carried out by state agencies;**
- (5) **Take actions as necessary to ensure that supplies, equipment and other materials are appropriately staged in preparation for emergencies; and**
- (6) **Develop and maintain an inventory plan for the sustainable procurement, rotation and management of emergency preparedness assets.**

RESILIENCE HUBS AND NETWORKS

SECTION 9. ORS 409.760 is amended to read:

409.760. (1) As used in this section:

(a) “Resilience Hub” means a physical facility that is **created**, operated, managed or supported by one or more local residents, local governments, tribal governments, public schools, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, [or] nongovernmental organizations **or any other groups or entities located in Oregon**, and that:

(A) Supports the needs of community members or tribal communities, facilitates gathering and communication, distributes resources and otherwise enhances quality of life within a community;

(B) Serves as a central point for gathering, information sharing, and coordination in response to a disruption in the community;

(C) Enhances the ability of a community to respond to and recover from a disruption in a community;

(D) Is positioned, operated and resourced on a day-to-day basis, **during a disruption and during recovery**, to provide community resources, including but not limited to food, water, information exchange, electronic charging stations, basic medical supplies and equipment proportionate to the size of the community’s population and needs;

(E) Supports community cache sites and other support for community members who shelter in

1 place;

2 (F) Can provide child care, training, food distribution and other services that can help a com-
 3 munity respond to unmet *[social]* needs to prepare for, respond to and recover from **adverse events,**
 4 **emergencies or** disasters;

5 (G) Can provide, or can be retrofitted to provide, heating, cooling, air filtration and weather
 6 protection; and

7 (H) Accommodates individuals with accessibility needs.

8 (b) “Resilience Network” means an association of facilities, organizations, resource providers
 9 or service providers *[outside of a physical Resilience Hub facility that collectively serve the purposes*
 10 *of a Resilience Hub]* **that collectively supports community members to prepare for, adapt to**
 11 **or respond to social, emotional and physical disruption generated by ongoing climate change**
 12 **or other causes, and during and after an adverse event, emergency or disaster.**

13 (2) The Department of Human Services shall, in consultation with the State Department of En-
 14 ergy and the Oregon Health Authority, provide grants, *[support and technical assistance for]* **equip-**
 15 **ment, technical assistance, contracted services and any other type of support to individuals**
 16 **or organizations located in Oregon for creating or sustaining** Resilience Hubs and **Resilience**
 17 Networks in Oregon. The Department of Human Services shall award:

18 (a) Grants for expenses related to planning and organizing Resilience Hubs and **Resilience**
 19 Networks;

20 (b) Grants to support and expand development and operation of Resilience Hubs and **Resilience**
 21 Networks to ensure that physical facilities can provide protection from extreme weather, can
 22 maintain power and climate during power outages, have auxiliary communications capabilities and
 23 are resilient following earthquakes, fires, tornadoes, floods, other extreme weather events and other
 24 potential **adverse events, emergencies or** disasters¹, *emergencies or incidents*; and

25 (c) Grants for resources and services needed by communities to otherwise prepare for and re-
 26 spond to **adverse events, emergencies or** disasters.

27 (3) Individuals or organizations **located in Oregon and serving people in this state** may apply
 28 for grants by submitting an application that must include:

29 (a) A description of the purposes for which grant moneys will be expended, **including a de-**
 30 **scription of the services to be provided to the community by the Resilience Hub or Resilience**
 31 **Network;**

32 (b) A plan for implementing specific strategies to build resilience in a community;

33 (c) A description of additional resources available for purposes of the Resilience Hub or
 34 **Resilience Network;**

35 (d) A description of the project’s ability to serve vulnerable populations and communities tradi-
 36 tionally underrepresented in the public process, including communities of color, communities expe-
 37 riencing lower incomes, tribal communities, rural communities, coastal communities, communities
 38 with limited infrastructure, seniors, youth and persons with disabilities; and

39 (e) Any other information required by the department.

40 (4) The department shall execute grant agreements with grant recipients obligating recipients
 41 to use grant moneys for purposes specified in the grant agreements. The department, in consultation
 42 with the State Department of Energy and the Oregon Health Authority, shall determine the per-
 43 missible purposes, **applicant eligibility requirements, types of awards** for a grant **and eligible**
 44 **equipment, technical assistance, services and support** under this section based on the needs of
 45 the Resilience Hub or **Resilience Network**. The department shall determine the needs of the

1 Resilience Hub or **Resilience** Network in consultation with the community, including populations
2 described in subsection (3)(d) of this section, within the locality in which the Resilience Hub or
3 **Resilience** Network operates.

4 (5) The Department of Human Services shall adopt rules necessary for the administration of this
5 section, including specifying the form and contents of an application for a grant under this section.

6 7 **OVERNIGHT TRAINING ACTIVITIES**

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9 **SECTION 10.** Notwithstanding any other provision of state or local law, a facility that is
10 used for emergency preparedness, response or recovery and that receives state funding is
11 authorized to host overnight training activities.

12 13 **COUNTY AUTHORITY TO WAIVE CIVIL PENALTIES**

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15 **SECTION 11.** A county governing body may, by order or resolution, waive a civil penalty
16 imposed by the Oregon Health Authority or a local health authority under ORS 624.992 if the
17 civil penalty is imposed for a violation that occurred during a state of emergency declared
18 under ORS 401.165.

19 20 **DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

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22 **SECTION 12.** The Department of the State Fire Marshal shall conduct a study of health
23 coverage disparities between paid and volunteer firefighters. The department shall submit a
24 report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and may include recommendations for legis-
25 lation, to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to emergency man-
26 agement no later than September 15, 2027.

27 **SECTION 13.** Section 12 of this 2026 Act is repealed on January 2, 2028.

28 29 **FINGERPRINTING BY ODEM**

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31 **SECTION 14.** The Oregon Department of Emergency Management shall require the fin-
32 gerprints of the following persons for the purpose of requesting a state or nationwide crim-
33 inal records check under ORS 181A.195:

34 (1) Persons employed or applying for employment by the department; and

35 (2) Persons who provide or seek to provide services to the department as a contractor
36 or subcontractor.

37 38 **PUBLIC AND INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

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40 **SECTION 15.** Sections 16 to 19 of this 2026 Act are added to and made a part of ORS
41 chapter 401.

42 **SECTION 16.** (1) The Oregon Department of Emergency Management shall establish and
43 administer a state infrastructure emergency recovery grant program, to be known as the
44 Oregon Public Assistance Grant Program, to issue grants to qualified recipients, subject to
45 available funding.

1 (2) Grants under the program must be used to pay for work performed before, during or
2 after an emergency to protect public health, safety or property, including, without limitation,
3 debris removal and work to protect or restore public services or public infrastructure.

4 (3) The Governor may activate the program if:

5 (a) The Governor determines that an emergency has occurred or is imminent and finds
6 that assistance from the state is warranted; and

7 (b) The department recommends that the program be activated.

8 (4) The Governor shall inactivate the program when the Governor finds that assistance
9 from the state is no longer warranted.

10 (5) While the program is active, the department may issue grants to qualified recipients
11 pursuant to requests from counties or tribal entities. A request on behalf of a city may be
12 made by the county in which a geographic majority of the city lies. Requests must be in
13 writing and must include the following information:

14 (a) Confirmation that the requester has taken appropriate action under the local emer-
15 gency plan;

16 (b) An estimate of the amount and severity of damages and losses and a description of
17 the impact of the emergency on the public and private sectors;

18 (c) A description of the nature and amount of local resources which have been or will
19 be committed to alleviate the results of the emergency;

20 (d) A preliminary estimate of the types and amount of supplementary state emergency
21 assistance needed; and

22 (e) A certification by the requester that the obligations and expenditures for the current
23 emergency will comply with all applicable cost sharing requirements agreed between the de-
24 partment and the requester.

25 (6) The department may adopt rules to administer and implement the provisions of this
26 section, including rules governing eligibility requirements, the form and manner of requests
27 and evaluation of requests by the department.

28 (7) As used in this section, “qualified recipient” means:

29 (a) A state agency;

30 (b) A local government;

31 (c) A federally recognized Indian tribe in Oregon;

32 (d) A school district or education service district; and

33 (e) A nonprofit organization that provides critical services or essential social services,
34 such as a hospital, long term care facility, school, community center, food assistance pro-
35 gram or shelter.

36 **SECTION 17.** The Oregon Public Assistance Grant Program Account is established in the
37 State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the account
38 must be credited to the account. The account consists of moneys appropriated, allocated,
39 deposited or transferred to the account by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise and inter-
40 est earned on moneys in the account. The moneys in the account are continuously appro-
41 priated to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management to carry out the Oregon Public
42 Assistance Grant Program described in section 16 of this 2026 Act. The department shall
43 ensure that no more than 10 percent of the moneys in the account are used to pay costs of
44 coordination and distribution of assistance under the program.

45 **SECTION 18.** (1) The Department of Human Services shall establish and administer an

1 individual grant program, to be known as the Oregon Individual Assistance Grant Program,
2 to issue grants to address critical emergency-related needs of qualified individuals, subject
3 to available funding.

4 (2) The Governor may activate the program if:

5 (a) The Oregon Department of Emergency Management recommends that the program
6 be activated, the Governor determines that an emergency has occurred or is imminent and
7 the Governor finds that assistance from the state is warranted; or

8 (b) The Governor has declared an emergency under ORS 401.165.

9 (3) The Governor shall inactivate the program when the Governor finds that assistance
10 from the state is no longer warranted.

11 (4) While the program is active, the Department of Human Services may issue grants
12 pursuant to requests from counties or tribal entities. A request on behalf of a city may be
13 made by the county in which a geographic majority of the city lies. Requests must be in
14 writing and must include the following information:

15 (a) Confirmation that the requester has taken appropriate action under the local emer-
16 gency plan;

17 (b) An estimate of the amount and severity of damages and losses and a description of
18 the impact of the emergency on individuals and households;

19 (c) A description of the nature and amount of local resources which have been or will
20 be committed to alleviate the results of the emergency; and

21 (d) A preliminary estimate of the types and amount of supplementary state emergency
22 assistance needed.

23 (5) Grants under the program may be used only to pay for:

24 (a) The provision of services to qualified individuals for critical emergency-related needs,
25 which may include, without limitation:

26 (A) Temporary rental assistance;

27 (B) Hazard mitigation assistance;

28 (C) Repair or replacement of owner-occupied homes that serve as a primary residence,
29 including repair or replacement of privately owned access routes;

30 (D) Assistance with immediate needs;

31 (E) Essential personal property assistance;

32 (F) Assistance with other serious needs that are not covered by insurance; and

33 (G) Other critical emergency recovery services as approved by the Oregon Department
34 of Emergency Management; and

35 (b) Agreements with local governments, tribal entities or disaster recovery organizations
36 for the delivery of services described in paragraph (a) of this subsection, including payments
37 for staffing or other administrative needs.

38 (6) Assistance to individuals may be in the form of direct financial assistance or pay-
39 ments to another entity on behalf of individuals.

40 (7) The Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Oregon Department of
41 Emergency Management, may adopt rules to administer and implement the provisions of this
42 section.

43 (8) The Oregon Department of Emergency Management, in consultation with the De-
44 partment of Human Services, shall update the statewide emergency management plan pre-
45 pared under ORS 401.052 to incorporate the Oregon Individual Assistance Grant Program

into statewide disaster response and recovery planning. The plan must include, without limitation, provisions for equitable distribution of assistance, coordination with local governments and community-based organizations, and integration with federal recovery programs when applicable.

(9) As used in this section:

(a) "Hazard mitigation" means actions taken to reduce impacts of future emergencies.

(b) "Immediate need" means:

(A) A life-saving or life-sustaining item or activity that is essential to prevent, mitigate or overcome an adverse condition caused by an emergency; and

(B) Other equipment that is essential for daily household needs.

(c) "Qualified individual" means:

(A) An individual who is displaced by an emergency from the individual's primary residence;

(B) An individual whose primary residence is rendered uninhabitable by an emergency; or

(C) An individual with a disability whose primary residence is rendered inaccessible or uninhabitable to the individual as a result of damage caused by an emergency.

SECTION 19. The Oregon Individual Assistance Grant Program Account is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the account must be credited to the account. The account consists of moneys appropriated, allocated, deposited or transferred to the account by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise and interest earned on moneys in the account. The moneys in the account are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management. The department may make moneys in the account available to the Department of Human Services to carry out the Oregon Individual Assistance Grant Program described in section 18 of this 2026 Act.

CAPTIONS

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