

House Bill 4121

Sponsored by Representatives EVANS, GOMBERG, JAVADI; Representatives 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 **as introduced**. 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 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. Authorizes the Oregon Department of Emergency Management to obtain fingerprints of employees or 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:

SPARTICIS

SECTION 1. (1) The Oregon Statewide Preparedness Authority for Response Training and Intergovernmental Continuity of Imperative Services is established as an office within the Oregon Department of Administrative Services. The office is to be known as and may be cited as SPARTICIS.

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

(3) For purposes of administration, the State Resilience Officer may organize and reorganize the office and appoint administrative personnel as the State Resilience Officer considers necessary to properly conduct the work of the office.

(4) The State Resilience Officer may divide the functions of the office into administrative divisions. The State Resilience Officer may appoint an individual to administer each division. The administrator of each division serves at the pleasure of the State Resilience Officer and is not subject to the provisions of ORS chapter 240. Each individual appointed under this subsection must be well qualified by technical training and experience in the functions to be performed by the individual.

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 (5) The office shall:

2 (a) Provide administrative and operational support for the development of strategic im-
3 provements in facilities and programming;

4 (b) Provide oversight for prioritization of funding associated with emergency-related
5 equipment and functions implemented throughout this state;

6 (c) Provide standardization across state agencies for continuity of governance planning,
7 exercises and preparedness;

8 (d) Serve as a platform for development, implementation and assessment of policies
9 adopted by the State Resilience Officer and provide administrative and operational support
10 as directed by the State Resilience Officer;

11 (e) Carry out the duties imposed by sections 2 to 11 of this 2026 Act; and

12 (f) Perform such other duties as may be assigned to the office.

13 (6) The office shall periodically report to the Legislative Assembly on the office's activ-
14 ities, priorities and project outcomes.

15 (7) The office may adopt rules as necessary to carry out its duties.

16 **SECTION 2.** (1) SPARTICIS shall oversee state strategy relating to regional facilities and
17 capacity related to emergency preparedness.

18 (2) The office shall identify, prioritize and assist in obtaining funding for projects to
19 construct or improve regional facilities.

20 (3) The office shall ensure that the state has a combination of fixed, mobile and trans-
21 portable supplies that is appropriate for emergency management purposes.

22 (4) The office shall make expenditures, including grants to local governments, as defined
23 in ORS 174.116, and private entities, that are consistent with the goal of enhancing regional
24 facilities related to emergency management. The office may condition grants on matching
25 contributions or other contributions from recipients.

26 (5) The office shall monitor the progress of all projects overseen by the office under this
27 section and publish quarterly reports on such progress.

28 (6) The office shall provide administrative support as necessary to other interagency or
29 intergovernmental bodies related to emergency management.

30 **SECTION 3.** The Regional Facilities Account is established in the State Treasury, sepa-
31 rate and distinct from the General Fund. The account consists of moneys appropriated, al-
32 located, deposited or transferred to the account by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise.
33 Moneys in the account are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Department of Admin-
34 istrative Services for SPARTICIS to carry out the provisions of section 2 of this 2026 Act.

35 **SECTION 4.** (1) SPARTICIS shall oversee collaboration, cooperation and coordination
36 between the state and:

37 (a) Organizations involved in the development, implementation and sustainment of the
38 emergency supplies and equipment stockpile plan described in ORS 401.111;

39 (b) Organizations involved in the development, implementation and sustainment of the
40 emergency preparedness equipment grant program described in ORS 401.551; and

41 (c) Organizations involved in other stockpile or resilience grant programs carried out by
42 state agencies.

43 (2) The office may take actions as necessary to ensure that supplies, equipment and other
44 materials are appropriately staged in preparation for emergencies.

45 (3) The office shall monitor the progress of all projects overseen by the office under this

1 section and publish quarterly reports on such progress.

2 **SECTION 5.** The Regional Stockpile Support Account is established in the State Treasury,
3 separate and distinct from the General Fund. The account consists of moneys appropriated,
4 allocated, deposited or transferred to the account by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise.
5 Moneys in the account are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Department of Admin-
6 istrative Services for SPARTICIS to carry out the provisions of section 4 of this 2026 Act.

7 **SECTION 6.** (1) SPARTICIS shall enhance the emergency preparedness of this state
8 through education and training as described in this section.

9 (2) The office shall collaborate, cooperate and coordinate with appropriate private and
10 public entities with responsibility for the emergency support functions identified by the
11 Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop regionally specific public safety educa-
12 tion, live exercises and training with the goal of improving statewide emergency
13 preparedness.

14 (3) The office shall develop, or support the development of, multidisciplinary, all-hazards
15 emergency response training and exercises.

16 (4) The office shall monitor the progress of all projects overseen by the office under this
17 section and publish quarterly reports on such progress.

18 **SECTION 7.** The Regional Training Account is established in the State Treasury, separate
19 and distinct from the General Fund. The account consists of moneys appropriated, allocated,
20 deposited or transferred to the account by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise. Moneys
21 in the account are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Department of Administrative
22 Services for SPARTICIS to carry out the provisions of section 6 of this 2026 Act.

23 **SECTION 8.** (1) SPARTICIS shall collaborate, cooperate and coordinate with state agen-
24 cies and local governments to develop and standardize measures for continuity of governance
25 during and after an emergency that affects normal government operations.

26 (2) The office shall develop training for state agencies and local governments related to
27 continuity of governance. The office may perform evaluations of continuity of governance
28 measures adopted by state agencies and local governments.

29 (3) The office shall monitor development of continuity of governance measures by state
30 agencies and local governments and publish quarterly reports on such development until the
31 office determines that sufficient measures are in place statewide.

32 (4) The office may provide administrative and operational support for policies, programs
33 and initiatives of the State Resilience Officer related to continuity of governance.

34 **SECTION 9.** The Statewide Continuity of Governance Account is established in the State
35 Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. The account consists of moneys ap-
36 propriated, allocated, deposited or transferred to the account by the Legislative Assembly
37 or otherwise. Moneys in the account are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Depart-
38 ment of Administrative Services for SPARTICIS to carry out the provisions of section 8 of
39 this 2026 Act.

40 **SECTION 10.** (1) SPARTICIS shall collaborate, cooperate and coordinate with public and
41 private entities with responsibility for the emergency support functions identified by the
42 Federal Emergency Management Agency to identify and implement strategic investments to
43 enhance the emergency resilience of the state.

44 (2) The office may issue grants to support strategic investments described in subsection
45 (1) of this section.

(3) The office shall monitor the progress of projects funded under this section and shall evaluate, using objective measurements, the improvements to statewide emergency preparedness attributable to such projects. The office shall publish quarterly reports on such progress and improvements.

SECTION 11. The Strategic Partnership Account is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. The account consists of moneys appropriated, allocated, deposited or transferred to the account by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise. Moneys in the account are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for SPARTICIS to carry out the provisions of section 10 of this 2026 Act.

SPARC

SECTION 12. (1) The Statewide Preparedness Authority for Response Coordination is established as an office within the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. The office is to be known as and may be cited as SPARC.

(2) The office is under the supervision and control of a facilitator, 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 facilitator, who holds office at the pleasure of the director.

(4) The facilitator shall be paid a salary as provided by law or, if not so provided, as prescribed by the director, with the approval of the Governor.

(5) For purposes of administration, the facilitator may organize and reorganize the office as the facilitator considers necessary to properly conduct the work of the office.

(6) The facilitator may divide the functions of the office into administrative divisions. The facilitator may appoint an individual to administer each division. The administrator of each division serves at the pleasure of the facilitator and is not subject to the provisions of ORS chapter 240. Each individual appointed under this subsection must be well qualified by technical training and experience in the functions to be performed by the individual.

(7) The office shall:

(a) Develop a standardized and expandable training environment for emergency response training in consultation and collaboration with subject matter experts based on strategic, operational and tactical assessments, evaluations and requirements; and

(b) Plan, develop, construct and operate facilities for emergency response training until the facilitator determines that the facilities are fully operational, at which time control of the facilities must be transferred to the Statewide Regional Training Office established under section 18 of this 2026 Act.

SECTION 13. (1) SPARC shall develop and maintain a database to be known as the All-Hazards Statewide Responder Database. The database is to be a centralized and comprehensive repository of information regarding individuals and entities with skills or responsibilities relevant to emergency management.

(2) The office shall negotiate any data sharing agreements with public and private entities necessary to develop or maintain the database.

(3) The office shall collaborate, cooperate and coordinate with all appropriate private and public entities with responsibility for the emergency support functions identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop and maintain the database.

(4) In developing the database, the office shall prioritize the inclusion of formalized emergency response exercise, experience and training information derived from the Emergency Management Institute of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the emergency health care provider registry established under ORS 401.651 to 401.670 and the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.

(5) The office shall identify, implement and support an appropriate learning management system to be used in conjunction with the database.

(6) The office shall prepare and publish an annual report on the development, maintenance and use of the database. The report must include assessments and recommendations for improvement relating to the operation and security of the database.

(7) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, shall assist the office in carrying out the provisions of this section and, to the extent permitted by laws relating to confidentiality, shall furnish information and advice the office considers necessary to carry out those provisions.

SECTION 14. (1) The All-Hazards Statewide Responder Database Oversight Authority is created within the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. The authority consists of:

(a) The SPARC facilitator;

(b) One member appointed by the Director of the Oregon Department of Emergency Management to represent the Oregon Department of Emergency Management;

(c) One member appointed by the Director of the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to represent the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training;

(d) One member appointed by the Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to represent the Oregon Department of Administrative Services; and

(e) One member appointed by the Director of the Oregon Health Authority to represent the Oregon Health Authority.

(2) The All-Hazards Statewide Responder Database Oversight Authority shall oversee the development and maintenance of the database described in section 13 of this 2026 Act.

FUNDING PROVIDED BY SPARC

SECTION 15. (1) SPARC shall distribute moneys, by grant, to develop and operate public safety projects as described in this section.

(2) Before distributing moneys under this section, SPARC shall, in collaboration with the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training and the advisory board convened under section 19 of this 2026 Act, develop construction standards for projects, which may include, without limitation, seismic standards, durability standards and standards for portions of newly constructed buildings that may be used as emergency evacuation facilities. A recipient of grant funding under this section must agree to construct the project in accordance with applicable standards developed by SPARC.

(3) On or before July 1, 2028, SPARC shall make the following grants, subject to subsection (2) of this section:

(a) \$20 million to the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training for a facility in Salem.

(b) \$20 million to the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council to be used for the

1 CORE3 center in Deschutes County.

2 (4) In the biennium beginning July 1, 2029, SPARC shall make additional grants for the
3 projects specified in subsection (3) of this section to fund operational costs of the projects.
4 SPARC shall determine the amount of the grants based on the need demonstrated by the
5 projects and legislative budgetary authorization.

6 (5) On or before July 1, 2031, SPARC shall make two grants of up to \$20 million each to
7 recipients, as described in subsection (7) of this section, determined through a competitive
8 process. SPARC shall adopt rules governing the competitive process and shall select recipi-
9 ents so as to maximize the emergency readiness of the state, taking into consideration the
10 severity and types of hazards that may affect various regions of this state. SPARC may not
11 make grants under this subsection for projects that received grants under subsection (3) of
12 this section.

13 (6) On or before July 1, 2034, SPARC shall make two grants of up to \$20 million each to
14 recipients determined through a competitive process as described in subsection (5) of this
15 section. SPARC may not make grants under this subsection for projects that received grants
16 under subsection (3) or (5) of this section.

17 (7) A grant under subsections (5) and (6) of this section may be made only to a recipient
18 that represents local governments and emergency management agencies in one of the fol-
19 lowing regions, which may be further defined by rules adopted by SPARC:

- 20 (a) North Coast;
- 21 (b) Central Coast;
- 22 (c) South Coast;
- 23 (d) Metro;
- 24 (e) Southern;
- 25 (f) Gorge; or
- 26 (g) East.

27 **SECTION 16.** (1) For the biennium beginning July 1, 2027, at the request of the Depart-
28 ment of Public Safety Standards and Training, the State Treasurer is authorized to issue
29 lottery bonds pursuant to ORS 286A.560 to 286A.585 in an amount that produces \$40 million
30 in net proceeds for the purposes described in subsection (4) of this section, plus an additional
31 amount estimated by the State Treasurer to be necessary to pay bond-related costs.

32 (2) For the biennium beginning July 1, 2029, at the request of the Department of Public
33 Safety Standards and Training, the State Treasurer is authorized to issue lottery bonds
34 pursuant to ORS 286A.560 to 286A.585 in an amount that produces \$40 million in net proceeds
35 for the purposes described in subsection (4) of this section, plus an additional amount esti-
36 mated by the State Treasurer to be necessary to pay bond-related costs.

37 (3) For the biennium beginning July 1, 2033, at the request of the Department of Public
38 Safety Standards and Training, the State Treasurer is authorized to issue lottery bonds
39 pursuant to ORS 286A.560 to 286A.585 in an amount that produces \$40 million in net proceeds
40 for the purposes described in subsection (4) of this section, plus an additional amount esti-
41 mated by the State Treasurer to be necessary to pay bond-related costs.

42 (4) Net proceeds of lottery bonds issued under this section must be transferred to the
43 department to be used by SPARC to issue grants under section 15 of this 2026 Act.

44 (5) The Legislative Assembly finds that the use of lottery bond proceeds will create jobs,
45 further economic development, finance public education or restore and protect parks,

1 beaches, watersheds and native fish and wildlife, and is authorized based on the following
2 findings:

3 (a) Developing public safety projects in Oregon will create employment opportunities in
4 construction and public safety professions;

5 (b) Public safety projects will help to protect natural resources in Oregon, including na-
6 tive fish and wildlife, against natural and man-made disasters; and

7 (c) Enhancing Oregon's ability to prepare for and recover from emergencies will increase
8 investment, business activity and economic development in this state.

9 **SECTION 17.** Sections 15 and 16 of this 2026 Act are repealed on January 2, 2036.

10 11 STATEWIDE REGIONAL TRAINING OFFICE

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13 **SECTION 18.** (1) The Statewide Regional Training Office is established within the De-
14 partment of Public Safety Standards and Training.

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

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

20 (4) The Statewide Regional Training Officer shall be paid a salary as provided by law or,
21 if not so provided, as prescribed by the director, with the approval of the Governor.

22 (5) For purposes of administration, the Statewide Regional Training Officer may organize
23 and reorganize the office as the Statewide Regional Training Officer considers necessary to
24 properly conduct the work of the office.

25 (6) The Statewide Regional Training Officer may divide the functions of the office into
26 administrative divisions. The Statewide Regional Training Officer may appoint an individual
27 to administer each division. The administrator of each division serves at the pleasure of the
28 Statewide Regional Training Officer and is not subject to the provisions of ORS chapter 240.
29 Each individual appointed under this subsection must be well qualified by technical training
30 and experience in the functions to be performed by the individual.

31 (7) The office shall manage and operate facilities for emergency response training after
32 control of such facilities is transferred to the office from SPARC under section 12 of this 2026
33 Act.

34 (8) The office shall develop and implement a long-term strategy for operation of the fa-
35 cilities with the goal of optimizing the emergency preparedness of the state.

36 (9) The office shall coordinate with the SPARC facilitator to develop and sustain regional
37 training programs.

38 39 DPSST ADVISORY BOARD

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41 **SECTION 19.** (1) The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training shall convene
42 an advisory board to advise the department on emergency resilience strategy. The advisory
43 board may advise on any of the following, without limitation:

44 (a) Strategic investments and objectives in the short, medium and long term;

45 (b) Placement and distribution of facilities, equipment and supplies;

1 (c) Standards for regional training; and

2 (d) Recommendations for legislative changes associated with statewide emergency
3 resilience.

4 (2) The department may appoint members to the advisory board as the department deems
5 necessary or convenient. The department shall consider, but is not required to appoint, the
6 following as advisory board members:

7 (a) The State Resilience Officer;

8 (b) The SPARC facilitator;

9 (c) A member with expertise in capital projects;

10 (d) A representative of the Oregon Military Department;

11 (e) A representative of the Department of the State Fire Marshal;

12 (f) A representative of the Department of State Police;

13 (g) A representative of the office related to resilience and emergency management within
14 the Department of Human Services;

15 (h) A representative of organizations of local governments;

16 (i) A representative of the Oregon Emergency Management Association; and

17 (j) A representative of tribal government emergency management agencies.

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

22 23 SRO AND SPARC REPORTING

24
25 **SECTION 20.** (1) On or before January 30, 2027, the State Resilience Officer shall report
26 to the standing or interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to emergency
27 management on whether the staffing levels of the office of the State Resilience Officer are
28 sufficient to carry out the duties of the office.

29 (2) On or before January 30, 2027, SPARC shall report to the standing or interim com-
30 mittees of the Legislative Assembly related to emergency management on the amount of
31 state funding necessary or advisable for operational costs of the projects described in section
32 15 (3) of this 2026 Act.

33 34 PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE STATE RESILIENCE OFFICER

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36 **SECTION 21.** (1) The State Resilience Officer shall identify state agencies with responsi-
37 bility for one or more emergency support functions identified by the Federal Emergency
38 Management Agency.

39 (2) Each state agency identified under subsection (1) of this section shall designate an
40 employee of the state agency as the Emergency Management Responsible Officer. This offi-
41 cer shall act as the primary liaison between the state agency and state authorities related
42 to emergency management, including SPARC and the Oregon Department of Emergency
43 Management.

44 (3) Each state agency not identified under subsection (1) of this section shall designate
45 an employee of the state agency as the Continuity of Governance Responsible Officer. This

officer shall act as the primary liaison between the state agency and SPARTICIS for the purposes of preparing continuity of governance plans.

SECTION 22. Each county shall submit a report to the State Resilience Officer at least once per biennium on the state of the county's emergency preparedness. The report must include:

(1) An assessment of county-level emergency management administrative support for local first responder agencies and local nonprofit or volunteer organizations associated with emergency management;

(2) An assessment of county-level strengths and weaknesses relating to emergency preparedness, response and recovery;

(3) An assessment of regional partnership development; and

(4) Recommendations for structural and systematic improvements.

SECTION 23. 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 24. (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 aligned with emergency support functions as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

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

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

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

(7) The Governor shall appoint one of the members of the authority to serve as chairperson.

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 25. (1) If the Oregon Disaster Recovery Authority established under section 24 of this 2026 Act is activated pursuant to a declaration of emergency, the Governor may hire additional state agency personnel under this section.

(2) Additional personnel hired under this section:

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

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

(c) Must have their employment terminated no later than the date the authority is deactivated under section 24 of this 2026 Act.

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

(4) The Governor's hiring authority under this section is subject to the availability of funding. The compensation of additional personnel hired under this section may be paid from the Oregon Disaster Recovery Authority Fund established under section 26 of this 2026 Act.

SECTION 26. The Oregon Disaster Recovery Authority Fund is established in the State

Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. The Oregon Disaster Recovery Authority Fund consists of moneys appropriated, allocated, deposited or transferred to the fund by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise. Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Office of the Governor to pay for compensation for personnel hired under section 25 of this 2026 Act.

OREGON PREPAREDNESS GRANT ACCOUNT

SECTION 27. 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 28. 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 29. 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

1 to a disruption in the community;

2 (C) Enhances the ability of a community to respond to and recover from a disruption in a com-
3 munity;

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

8 (E) Supports community cache sites and other support for community members who shelter in
9 place;

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

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

15 (H) Accommodates individuals with accessibility needs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

43 (d) A description of the project's ability to serve vulnerable populations and communities tradi-
44 tionally underrepresented in the public process, including communities of color, communities expe-
45 riencing lower incomes, tribal communities, rural communities, coastal communities, communities

with limited infrastructure, seniors, youth and persons with disabilities; and

(e) Any other information required by the department.

(4) The department shall execute grant agreements with grant recipients obligating recipients to use grant moneys for purposes specified in the grant agreements. The department, in consultation with the State Department of Energy and the Oregon Health Authority, shall determine the permissible purposes, **applicant eligibility requirements, types of awards for a grant and eligible equipment, technical assistance, services and support** under this section based on the needs of the Resilience Hub or **Resilience** Network. The department shall determine the needs of the Resilience Hub or **Resilience** Network in consultation with the community, including populations described in subsection (3)(d) of this section, within the locality in which the Resilience Hub or **Resilience** Network operates.

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

OVERNIGHT TRAINING ACTIVITIES

SECTION 30. Notwithstanding any other provision of state or local law, a facility that receives funding under section 15 of this 2026 Act is authorized to host overnight training activities.

COUNTY AUTHORITY TO WAIVE CIVIL PENALTIES

SECTION 31. A county governing body may, by order or resolution, waive a civil penalty imposed by the Oregon Health Authority or a local health authority under ORS 624.992 if the civil penalty is imposed for a violation that occurred during a state of emergency declared under ORS 401.165.

ONGOING PROGRAM FUNDING

SECTION 32. On or before July 1, 2027, the standing or interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means shall identify a sustainable, ongoing revenue source to pay for programs at facilities funded under section 15 of this 2026 Act.

DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

SECTION 33. The Department of the State Fire Marshal shall conduct a study of health coverage disparities between paid and volunteer firefighters. The department shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and may include recommendations for legislation, to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to emergency management no later than September 15, 2027.

SECTION 34. Section 33 of this 2026 Act is repealed on January 2, 2028.

ODEM FINGERPRINTING AUTHORITY

SECTION 35. For the purpose of requesting a state or nationwide criminal records check

under ORS 181A.195, the Oregon Department of Emergency Management may require the fingerprints of a person who:

- (1) Is employed or applying for employment by the department; or
- (2) Provides or seeks to provide services to the department as a contractor, subcontractor, vendor or volunteer.

PUBLIC AND INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

SECTION 36. Sections 37 to 40 of this 2026 Act are added to and made a part of ORS chapter 401.

SECTION 37. (1) The Oregon Department of Emergency Management shall establish and administer a state infrastructure emergency recovery grant program, to be known as the Oregon Public Assistance Grant Program, to issue grants to qualified recipients, subject to available funding.

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

(3) The Governor may activate the program if:

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

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

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

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

(a) Confirmation that the requester has taken appropriate action under the local emergency plan;

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

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

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

(e) A certification by the requester that the obligations and expenditures for the current emergency will comply with all applicable cost sharing requirements agreed between the department and the requester.

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

(7) As used in this section, "qualified recipient" means:

(a) A state agency;

(b) A local government;

(c) A federally recognized Indian tribe in Oregon;

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

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

SECTION 38. The Oregon Public 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 to carry out the Oregon Public Assistance Grant Program described in section 37 of this 2026 Act. The department shall ensure that no more than 10 percent of the moneys in the account are used to pay costs of coordination and distribution of assistance under the program.

SECTION 39. (1) The Department of Human Services shall establish and administer an individual grant program, to be known as the Oregon Individual Assistance Grant Program, to issue grants to address critical emergency-related needs of qualified individuals, subject to available funding.

(2) The Governor may activate the program if:

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

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

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

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

(a) Confirmation that the requester has taken appropriate action under the local emergency plan;

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

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

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

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

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

(A) Temporary rental assistance;

(B) Hazard mitigation assistance;

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

(D) Assistance with immediate needs;

(E) Essential personal property assistance;

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

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

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

(6) Assistance to individuals may be in the form of direct financial assistance or payments to another entity on behalf of individuals.

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

(8) The Oregon Department of Emergency Management, in consultation with the Department of Human Services, shall update the statewide emergency management plan prepared 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 40. 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 39 of this 2026 Act.

CAPTIONS

SECTION 41. 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.

