

**2020 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION**

---



**Emergency  
Preparedness**

---



## TASK FORCES AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

---

There were no task forces or reporting requirements created by bills in this policy area.

Picture: Sunset at Cape Blanco Lighthouse, Curry County – [Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives](#)

---

## [House Bill 4119-A](#)

**Not Enacted**

### Establishment of Tsunami Design Standards

**Chief Sponsors:** Reps. Gomberg, Smith DB; Sen. Roblan

**Committees:** House Natural Resources

**Background and Current Law:** In 1995, the legislature established a moratorium on constructing new essential buildings in the tsunami inundation zone, and in 2019, the legislature repealed that prohibition, effective January 1, 2020. For new facilities that may be built in the tsunami inundation zone in 2020 and beyond, the State Building Code does not currently include tsunami resilient design provisions. The American Society of Civil Engineers 7-16 (ASCE 7-16) is a publication that offers and describes minimum tsunami design standards for essential buildings such as hospitals, police and fire stations, emergency shelters and operations centers, utilities, schools, and public assembly buildings.

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 4119-A would have imposed ASCE 7-16 tsunami design standards on certain buildings and structures; allowed the Department of Consumer and Business Services to require that sites for certain new structures be evaluated for seismic vulnerability; and required a developer of a proposed high-risk public building to obtain a tsunami impact determination and risk mitigation suggestions from the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

---

## [House Bill 4144-A](#)

**Not Enacted**

### SPIRE II Grant Program

**Chief Sponsors:** Reps. Nathanson, Evans

**Committees:** House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

**Background and Current Law:** House Bill 2687 (2017) established the Resiliency Grant Fund, which was funded in another measure through Article XI-Q bond revenues of \$5 million to fund the program. The purpose of the Fund is to enable the purchase and distribution of emergency preparedness equipment throughout Oregon to local governments, special government bodies, private nonprofits, and, since 2019, tribal governments. This strategic siting, known as the State Preparedness and Incident Response Equipment (SPIRE) program, is designed to pre-place equipment that will be necessary during a statewide emergency such as a Cascadia earthquake. The program received 293 applications, and equipment was awarded to 27 counties and two tribal nations. These funds were used to procure generators, water purification trailers, high-axle rescue vehicles, water rescue vehicles, mass casualty support trailers, and fuel transport vehicles.

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 4144-A would have permitted the State Treasurer to issue up to \$5 million in Article XI-Q bonds to be deposited into the Resiliency Grant Fund for a second round of SPIRE grants. The measure also directed the Oregon Homeland Security Council to update the list of equipment eligible for purchase through the program.

---

[House Bill 4041-A](#)**Not Enacted****Emergency Management Restructuring Task Force, Emergency Preparedness Advisory Councils**

**At the request of:** House Interim Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness for Representative Paul Evans

**Committees:** House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

**Background and Current Law:** The Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM), housed within the Oregon Military Department, is tasked with leading collaborative statewide efforts to ensure capability to provide aid and assistance in an emergency and to protect, mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from, emergencies or disasters.

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 4041-A would have designated the OEM Director as a Governor-appointed position, subject to confirmation by the Senate. The measure would also have established two advisory councils: the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council and the Local Government Emergency Management Advisory Council. The Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council would have been tasked with advising and making recommendations to the Oregon Homeland Security Advisory Council. Meanwhile, the Local Government Emergency Management Advisory Council would have been intended to advise the OEM. Finally, House Bill 4041-A would have established the Emergency Management Restructuring Task Force to study emergency management resources and capabilities available in Oregon and to make recommendations for a comprehensive restructuring of the state's emergency management systems.

---

[House Bill 4042](#)

Not Enacted

**Contracting Preferences for Employers of Emergency Responders**

**At the request of:** House Interim Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness for Representative Paul Evans

**Committees:** House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

**Background and Current Law:** Oregon statute governs the process by which public contracting agencies can solicit bids and award contracts. For some contracts, prospective bidders may receive a selection preference for any of the following: procurement of goods and services produced in Oregon; procurement of goods manufactured from recycled materials; or bidders that exceed federal Buy America requirements that apply to federally funded transportation projects.

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 4042 would have provided preference in public contracting to bidders certified as emergency preparedness partners. The measure directed the Oregon Office of Emergency Management to develop and administer a program to so certify organizations with at least five individuals or 10 percent of the organization's workforce (whichever was greater) successfully completing training to assist professional first responders in short-term emergency response and recovery.

The House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness has formed a work group to further develop the concept for possible introduction in the 2021 session.

---

[House Bill 4111-A](#)

Not Enacted

**Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue Cards**

**Chief Sponsors:** Reps. Evans, Williams, Helt, Bonham, Gomberg, Helm, Lewis, Smith DB, Witt

**Committees:** House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Senate Rules

**Background and Current Law:** Since 1987, the State of Colorado has maintained a Search and Rescue (SAR) Fund to reimburse agencies for costs incurred in conducting search and rescue operations. The Fund is supported by a surcharge on certain outdoor recreation permits, and also by voluntary donations through the purchase of Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue (CORSAR) cards or stickers, available for purchase at participating retailers. The CORSAR program generated roughly \$85,000 in 2019, contributing to a fund that reimbursed over \$48,000 for 23 search and rescue missions and grants of \$340,000 to participating agencies.

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 4111-A would have authorized the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association, under agreement with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management, to sell search and rescue cards through authorized sellers. The cards would have allowed purchasers to make voluntary donations to a dedicated fund which would have been used to finance county search and rescue efforts.

---

**Senate Bill 1537****Not Enacted****Omnibus Appropriations for Next Steps in Resilience Planning****At the request of:** Governor Kate Brown for Office of the Governor**Committees:** Senate General Government and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

**Background and Current Law:** Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) science has been accumulating and developing since the 1990s. The Legislative Assembly created the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission (OSSPAC) with Senate Bill 96 in 1991. OSSPAC's first report following the 2011 Tohoku earthquake off the coast of Japan was titled The Oregon Resilience Plan (Plan); it was issued in February of 2013 and was comprehensive and urgent. The Plan contains more than 140 recommendations and emphasizes the importance of long-term statewide, regional, and nationally coordinated efforts, over the course of fifty years or more, to make ongoing all-hazard, earthquake, and tsunami preparations for an inevitable "megathrust" earthquake that will occur off the coast of the Pacific Northwest.

Soon after the Plan was released, the Legislative Assembly enacted Senate Bill 33 (2013), creating a task force to prioritize issues for legislative action. The task force's highest recommendation, issued in October of 2014, was to create the position of State Resilience Officer (SRO) within the executive branch to unify and centralize implementation efforts. This recommendation was enacted in 2015 through House Bill 2270 and an SRO was appointed in the fall of 2016. In 2017, Senate Bill 850 tasked OSSPAC with studying the next two highest implementation priorities: mass care and shelter, and residential earthquake insurance. OSSPAC issued its findings in September of 2018. Other initiatives have included Senate Bill 1512 (2016) to fund personnel and seismic studies that support use of the Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program; Senate Bill 1523 (2016) to target funds for fuel storage facilities along designated critical transportation routes to enable emergency access; House Bill 2687 (2017) to provide grants to distribute emergency equipment at the local level; and House Bill 3427 (2017) requiring emergency action planning between the owners of certain high hazard dams and state and local partners.

In October 2018, the Governor and the SRO released "Resiliency 2025," articulating six goals: continued investment in seismic upgrades to schools and emergency services buildings; developing a plan for the Critical Infrastructure Hub to safeguard fuel supplies; implementing an earthquake early warning system; collaborating to prepare Oregonians for self-sufficiency in the immediate aftermath of a disaster; strengthening staging and supply chains; and updating the Plan. In addition to governmental efforts, Oregon's private sector and especially volunteer organizations, particularly in Oregon's coastal communities, have been tenacious and collaborative in their approaches to improve emergency preparedness.

Senate Bill 1537 would have advanced a number of the Governor's emergency preparedness priorities as outlined in "Resiliency 2025": completion of the ShakeAlert earthquake early warning system; standing up emergency services staging areas on a graduated basis; prioritizing dam assessment and repair; developing a program to assist Oregonians with self-sufficiency; and updating the Oregon Resilience Plan.

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 1537 would have provided for the following:

- Authority to issue Article XI-Q bonds sufficient to produce \$7.5 million net proceeds (plus cover related costs) for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to disburse to the University of Oregon (UO) to complete construction of ShakeAlert earthquake early warning seismic stations by June 30, 2023.

- 
- Creation of a 15-member advisory committee within and appointed by the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) through January 2, 2024, to assist with educational outreach to raise public awareness about ShakeAlert and earthquake preparedness; and appropriation of \$375,000 General Fund dollars to the Oregon Military Department (OMD) for this purpose.
  - Creation of a task force through January 2, 2024, comprised of at least seven members, appointed and staffed by OEM, to study and advise OEM on the development and administration of a program, in partnership with others, to enable at least 250,000 households in Oregon to be self-sufficient for at least two weeks following a catastrophic disaster; and appropriation of \$2.7 million General Fund dollars to OMD for this purpose (and for the staging area grant program that follows).
  - Directing the Homeland Security Council to identify 10 staging areas for emergency services in consultation with OEM, the SRO, and others; requiring and authorizing OEM to administer a grant program to maintain these areas, with at least one staging area and specified incident management team operational by September 30, 2022; requiring OEM to develop a strategic plan by September 30, 2022, for four additional specified teams each biennium for the next five biennia, beginning July 1, 2023; and appropriation of \$2.7 million General Fund dollars to OMD for these purposes (and for a task force on household self-sufficiency as previously described).
  - Directing the Water Resources Department (WRD) to evaluate dam integrity or to contract-out for same; creation of an 11-member task force, staffed and appointed by WRD in consultation with the Governor through January 2, 2022; and appropriation of \$2 million General Fund dollars to WRD for these purposes.
  - Requiring the Plan be updated by November 30, 2021, with elements involving OSSPAC, the SRO, Portland State University, the Department of Land Conservation and Development, the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, and OEM; and appropriation of \$125,000 General Fund dollars to the SRO.