

# HB100

**SPONSOR**

*Rep. Clare Collard*

Emergency Preparedness  
Amendments

**FLOOR SPONSOR**

*Sen. David Hinkins*

## **BILL SUMMARY**

Creates the Office of Earthquake Preparedness and Response within the Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management

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## **WHY THIS BILL?**

Utah is in a precarious position. FEMA has stated that, "The Wasatch fault poses one of the most catastrophic natural threat scenarios in the United States." The March 18, 2020 earthquake centered in Magna measured a 5.7 on the Richter scale, and was responsible for an estimated \$629 million in economic damage. Utah has a 43% chance to experience an earthquake measuring 6.7 or higher, meaning 31 times more energetic, within the next 50 years. This bill would be a vital first step toward taking the necessary precautions for when "the Big One" occurs.

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# For Your Consideration

Earthquakes pose a special risk to unreinforced masonry buildings (URMs). Utah has more URMs than the entirety of the state of California.

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There are a number of federal programs to help pay for the structural upgrades required to help prepare Utah for an earthquake, but we need people working on those funds to access them.

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Responsibility for earthquake preparedness is currently spread across several different entities, meaning many of the projects needed to prepare the state cannot find sufficient funding or backing.

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By creating an agency responsible for preparing for an earthquake preparedness we can ensure that this necessary task does not fall through the cracks.