

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass With Amendments to the A-Engrossed Measure, Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	George, Monnes Anderson, Prozanski, Telfer, Rosenbaum
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Jeremy Sarant, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/22, 5/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes that in a case of conflict between a provision of Oregon Employment Department Law and another other provision of state law, Employment Department Law prevails. Clarifies that the types of employment that will end an individual's disqualification from unemployment insurance benefits are limited to employment subject to Oregon Employment Department Law or equivalent law in another state or Canada, employment required to be covered under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, or employment by the federal government. Expands domestic violence criteria from application to a minor child to include any member of an individual's immediate family. Expands extended benefit eligibility to Emergency Unemployment Compensation claimants who would not have qualified under prior federal and current state law. Expands definition of dislocated workers. Carries back eligibility for extended benefits.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Availability of federal moneys from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
- U. S. Department of Labor language compliance requirements
- Necessity for prevailing Employment Department law

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Expands domestic violence criteria from application to a minor child to include any member of an individual's immediate family. Expands extended benefit eligibility to Emergency Unemployment Compensation claimants who would not have qualified under prior federal and current state law. Expands definition of dislocated workers. Carries back eligibility for extended benefits.

BACKGROUND: HB 2203 A clarifies that laws related to the Oregon Employment Department (ORS chapter 657) are controlling over changes made in other ORS chapters. The measure resolves any conflicts between ORS chapter 657 and other statutes in favor of ORS chapter 657 to ensure that the state conforms to the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA). Non-conformity with FUTA can lead to the loss of the Employment Department's federal administrative grant of \$52.1 million per year and the loss of the FUTA tax credit for Oregon employers, which is approximately \$505 million per year.

HB 2203 A also makes a technical correction to Senate Bill 195 (2007), which limited the types of employment that end an individual's disqualification from receiving UI benefits. The current statutory language did not include all types of covered employment. HB 2203 A clarifies that covered types of employment include employment subject to Oregon Employment Department Law or equivalent law in another state or Canada, employment required to be covered under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, and employment by the federal government