

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. D. Edwards
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Carter

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 16 – 5 – 1

House

Yeas: Buckley, C. Edwards, D. Edwards, Galizio, Jenson, Kotek, Nathanson, Shields

Nays: Garrard, Gilman, Richardson

Exc: G. Smith

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Carter, Johnson, Monroe, Nelson, Verger, Walker, Winters

Nays: Girod, Whitsett

Exc:

Prepared By: Michelle Deister, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: 6/23, 6/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Declares that economically distressed workers may not be denied unemployment insurance benefits for attending training or for refusing work offered that interferes with worker training and pays less than 110 percent of minimum wage. Requires the Director of the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development to adopt rules necessary to carry out provisions of the measure. Specifies that base year employer's account may not be charged for benefits for economically distressed worker training, but does not relieve governments or nonprofit employers from paying into the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund. Requires Director of Employment Department to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly by January 31, 2011 on the operation of economically distressed worker training. Limits total costs of unemployment benefit under measure to \$9.2 million. Allows individuals to receive Oregon emergency benefits once they have exhausted regular benefits and are not eligible for any other unemployment benefits, provided they continue to meet other eligibility requirements. Specifies that emergency benefit provisions apply between October 4, 2009 and January 2, 2010; authorizes Director of Employment Department to stop payment of emergency benefits once total payments exceed \$30 million. Sunsets January 2, 2010; declares an emergency and takes effect upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: House Bill 3483-A allows workers that are eligible for unemployment and who have been working at less than 110 percent of the minimum wage to continue to be eligible for unemployment benefits while receiving training and education designed to provide occupation-specific skills required for high-demand occupations. The measure stipulates that benefits may not be denied for refusing to accept work offered that is part-time or temporary and interferes with the training, provided that the work pays less than 110 percent of minimum wage.