

## HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 2624

By COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND LABOR

May 4

1 On page 1 of the printed bill, line 2, after the semicolon delete the rest of the line and line 3  
2 and insert “creating new provisions; repealing ORS 657.337 and 657.342; and prescribing an effective  
3 date.”.

4 Delete lines 5 through 29 and delete pages 2 and 3 and insert:

5 **“SECTION 1. Sections 2 to 5 of this 2009 Act are added to and made a part of ORS**  
6 **chapter 657.**

7 **“SECTION 2. As used in sections 2 to 5 of this 2009 Act:**

8 **“(1)(a) ‘Economically distressed worker training’ means:**

9 **“(A) Training and education that provides occupation-specific skills required in high-**  
10 **demand occupations, as determined by the Director of the Employment Department; or**

11 **“(B) Retraining and basic education, including literacy skills, designed to prepare an in-**  
12 **dividual, within a reasonable period not to exceed two years, for gainful employment or**  
13 **self-employment that is likely to become full-time employment that pays at least 110 percent**  
14 **of the minimum wage established under ORS 653.025.**

15 **“(b) ‘Economically distressed worker training’ does not include programs of instruction**  
16 **that are primarily intended to lead to a baccalaureate or higher degree or training that**  
17 **prepares individuals for employment in occupations that require a baccalaureate or higher**  
18 **degree, unless approved by the director.**

19 **“(2) ‘Eligible economically distressed workers’ means individuals who:**

20 **“(a) Are unemployed as described in ORS 657.100;**

21 **“(b) Are eligible for benefits under ORS 657.150, unless otherwise disqualified under this**  
22 **chapter;**

23 **“(c) Are not disqualified from benefits under any provision of ORS 657.176; and**

24 **“(d) Have been employed in work paying less than 110 percent of the minimum wage es-**  
25 **tablished under ORS 653.025 during their entire base year.**

26 **“SECTION 3. (1)(a) Eligible economically distressed workers enrolled or participating in**  
27 **economically distressed worker training may not be denied unemployment insurance benefits**  
28 **solely because they are attending training.**

29 **“(b) Eligible economically distressed workers approved for economically distressed**  
30 **worker training may not be denied unemployment insurance benefits for refusing to accept**  
31 **work if the work offered:**

32 **“(A) Is part-time or temporary or interferes with the eligible economically distressed**  
33 **worker’s training schedule; and**

34 **“(B) Pays less than 110 percent of the minimum wage established under ORS 653.025.**

35 **“(2) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter relating to availability for work or**

1 actively seeking work, eligible economically distressed workers who are enrolled or partic-  
2 ipating in economically distressed worker training and who are otherwise eligible for unem-  
3 ployment insurance benefits are not ineligible for benefits or waiting week credit because of  
4 attendance in the training.

5 “SECTION 4. The Director of the Employment Department, in consultation with the De-  
6 partment of Community Colleges and Workforce Development, shall adopt rules necessary  
7 for the administration of sections 2 and 3 of this 2009 Act, including, but not limited to,  
8 procedures for approval, periodic review for continued approval, or disapproval of econom-  
9 ically distressed worker training for eligible economically distressed workers. The director  
10 shall ensure that all programs for eligible economically distressed workers provide integrated  
11 and appropriate training and education.

12 “SECTION 5. A base year employer’s account may not be charged for benefits for eco-  
13 nomically distressed worker training paid under sections 2 and 3 of this 2009 Act. However,  
14 nothing in this section may be construed to relieve the state, reimbursing political subdi-  
15 visions, reimbursing nonprofit employers or reimbursing Indian tribes from paying into the  
16 Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund an amount equal to the benefits for economically  
17 distressed worker training paid under sections 2 and 3 of this 2009 Act.

18 “SECTION 6. Sections 2 and 3 of this 2009 Act apply to claims for benefits filed on or  
19 after the effective date of this 2009 Act.

20 “SECTION 7. No later than March 1, 2011, the Director of the Employment Department  
21 shall submit to the Legislative Assembly a report on the operation of economically distressed  
22 worker training through January 31, 2011.

23 “SECTION 8. ORS 657.337 and 657.342 are repealed.

24 “SECTION 9. Sections 1 to 6 of this 2009 Act are repealed on January 2, 2012.

25 “SECTION 10. This 2009 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the  
26 regular session of the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.”  
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