

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	10 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Barton, Cameron, Esquivel, Holvey, Hoyle, Kennemer, Matthews, Thatcher, Witt, Schaufler
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Theresa Van Winkle, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes the extension of emergency unemployment insurance benefits, beginning on the first week that begins at least 14 days after the measure’s effective date and ending when the total of such benefits paid reaches \$19 million. Specifies the maximum amount of emergency benefits that an individual can receive to be 23 percent of the individual’s most recent unemployment benefit claim. Authorizes the Employment Department to adopt rules regarding eligibility for the current Extended Benefits program. Declares an emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Rate schedule for the employer unemployment insurance tax
- Impact of HB 3483 (2009) in calculating the 2010 tax rate
- Current Employment Department training and job matching programs, i.e. Work Share Program
- Methodology for determining the parameters of amount of benefits an eligible recipient can receive
- Number of unemployed Oregonians impacted by the measure’s provisions
- Employment-Related Day Care program

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: HB 3655 authorizes the state’s extension of unemployment insurance (UI) benefits by reauthorizing the remaining balance of the \$30 million allocated from the UI Trust Fund for funding the benefit extension authorized by HB 3483 from the 2009 Legislative Session (\$19 million). The “emergency benefit period” begins no fewer than 14 days after enactment and ends on the date that the total amount of payments made would exceed \$19 million if paid for the succeeding calendar week. According to the Employment Department, the benefits will provide between two to six weeks of benefits per recipient, with approximately 18,600 unemployed workers expected to benefit from the extension.

The measure also adjusts the maximum amount that a qualified individual for Oregon emergency benefits can receive to 23 percent of their most recent regular unemployment benefit claim, and provides the Employment Department with rulemaking authority to allow more Oregonians to qualify for the current federal/state Extended Benefits program (funded from the American Recovery and Investment Act). This program was extended by Congress through February 28, 2010.

Expenditure of these previously allocated funds alone does not impact the solvency of the UI Trust Fund or employer tax rates.

2/3/2010 9:12:00 AM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.