

**REVENUE: No revenue impact****FISCAL: No fiscal impact**

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass
<b>Vote:</b>	5 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Bonamici, Boquist, George, Monroe, Shields
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Patrick Brennan, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	2/14, 2/23

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Allows the Employment Department to notify agents of employing units of unemployment insurance benefits claims or denials of claims. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Examples of uses of agents of employing units
- Agents must be designated by employer

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Many employers use agents, also referred to as third-party administrators, to handle unemployment insurance (UI) claims. Current law, however, requires the Employment Department to provide notice directly to the most recent employer when an individual files for UI benefits, and not to an agent of the employer. Currently, in cases where an employer uses an agent, the Department sends the notice to the employer, which then forwards the notice to the agent, which completes the form and returns it back to the Department. This two-step procedure can result in a delay of the claims process. About 4,500 employers in Oregon use employer agents.

Senate Bill 110 specifies that the Employment Department may provide the notice of a filed claim for UI benefits with either the most recent employer or that employer's agent, with the notice then being provided to the next most recent employer or agent as provided under current law.