

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Action: | Do Pass |
| Vote: | 4 - 0 - 2 |
| Yeas: | Burdick, Edwards, Girod, Beyer |
| Nays: | 0 |
| Exc.: | Atkinson, Starr |
| Prepared By: | Richard Berger, Administrator |
| Meeting Dates: | 3/17 |

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires counties to notify the Employment Department with the name, date of birth, and Social Security number of defendants upon incarceration. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Providing information to the Employment Department that is already being collected by counties
- Need to prevent false denials of unemployment benefits

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: ORS 657.155 requires persons collecting unemployment benefits to be able to work, available for work, and actively seeking suitable work. Due to this provision, claimants are not eligible for benefits if they are in the custody in a county jail. To enforce this provision, the Oregon Employment Department, receives information from county jails to determine if claimants are currently incarcerated. The Department receives varying degrees of information from 26 of Oregon's 36 counties about their inmate population on a daily or weekly basis. Incarceration data from the county jails is provided through access to a public website, or via email or fax. Four counties, Multnomah, Linn, Clackamas, and Benton, supply information that includes a social security number. The other 22 counties that provide information provide a name, and sometimes a date of birth. The Department denies payment of benefits for a number of incarcerated claimants per month and occasionally there are false matches and delays in the payment of benefits for innocent claimants with identical names.