

House Bill 2973

Sponsored by Representative JENSON (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires employer to verify legal status of employee to be employed in United States through federal E-Verify program prior to deducting expenses related to worker's employment from Oregon taxable income. Prohibits deduction of wages paid to unverified employee as business expense for purposes of Oregon taxation.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to verification of legal status for employment; and declaring an emergency.

2 Whereas ensuring that Oregon employers employ individuals eligible to work within Oregon is
3 an issue of statewide concern; and
4

5 Whereas it is in the best interest of employers in Oregon for all employers to follow federal law
6 as it applies to the hiring of individuals who are authorized to work in the United States; and
7

8 Whereas employers who violate federal employment law with respect to the hiring of individuals
9 who are unauthorized to work in the United States place an undue economic burden on employers
10 that attempt to hire only individuals who are authorized to work in the United States; and
11

12 Whereas strict adherence to legal hiring practices will decrease illegal immigration into Oregon
13 and substantially reduce the millions of dollars leaving Oregon to other countries; and
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15 Whereas employers in Oregon that hire unauthorized individuals create an attractive environ-
16 ment for illegal immigrants to locate within Oregon, which costs taxpayers millions of dollars to
17 provide public education, health care and other services and, in addition, negatively affects our ju-
18 dicial system; and
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20 Whereas it is in the best interest of this state for all employers to verify the Social Security
21 numbers and work eligibility status of newly hired employees, and it is important for every employer
22 in the state to verify through the federal E-Verify employment verification program the work eligi-
23 bility status of newly hired employees; now, therefore,
24

25 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

26 **SECTION 1. Expenses related to the employment of workers in this state may be de-**
27 **ducted from Oregon taxable income by employers of the worker only after the worker's el-**
28 **igibility for employment in the United States is verified through the federal E-Verify**
29 **employment verification program.**

30 **SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2011 Act applies to tax years beginning after December 31,**
2010.

SECTION 3. This 2011 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2011 Act takes effect
on its passage.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.