

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	9 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	Barnhart, Berger, Beyer, Esquivel, Freeman, Garrett, Wingard, Kotek, Olson
Nays:	Holvey
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Cheyenne Ross, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Excludes persons who own and operate taxicabs or provide nonemergency medical transport, from the definition of “employment” for purposes of unemployment insurance benefits, under certain conditions. Establishes effective date is 91st day after adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Carve-out for one longstanding cab company, possibly due to denial of claim for unemployment benefits
- Narrowness of exception to definition of “employment”
- Narrowness of effect – exception is only for purpose of unemployment insurance
- Specificity of owner/operator management structure, not a “cooperative” as defined elsewhere in statute
- No intent to “open door” to other carve-outs
- No prohibition against any company organizing itself as described to take advantage of the exception

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 1588 clarifies that some persons who provide taxicab or nonemergency medical transportation services are not “employees” for purposes of paying into, or receiving, unemployment insurance benefits if the following conditions are met: the person must operate and own or have leasehold interest in the vehicle being used to provide the service; the service must be for an entity that is governed by a board of owner-operators elected by the entity’s members; the vehicle must be a passenger vehicle, capable of seating between three and seven people; the route must begin and end in Oregon; passengers must have discretion to control the route; a fare must be charged based on a combination of initial fee, and distance traveled or waiting time; and the vehicle must not be used for errands or transporting property, unless it’s incidental to transporting the passenger.