

Testimony before the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation SB 615

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Senate Bill (SB) 615 creates the Oregon Retirement Savings Board (“Board”) as part of the office of the State Treasurer and directs the Board to develop a defined contribution savings program for Oregon workers. As originally drafted, SB 615 does not have a direct impact on Employment Department operations. The proposed -8 amendments, however, list the Employment Department (along with the Secretary of State, Department of Revenue, Department of Consumer and Business Services and the Bureau of Labor and Industries) as among the agencies that may enter into agreements with the Board. These agreements would be for agencies to provide outreach and technical assistance to the public as well as compliance services.

The -8 amendments do not specify which agencies might perform what duties for the Board and the extent of their involvement. What is required will depend on how the program is developed by the Board. Based on discussions with stakeholders involved with this legislation and the -8 amendments, it appears likely that the Employment Department, and perhaps other agencies, would be involved with providing outreach to Oregon employers about the savings plan developed by the Board. The Employment Department frequently communicates with businesses and can use existing contacts to help educate businesses about the program. The Employment Department also coordinates with several other agencies about communicating with our common businesses customers. Expanding those communications to include information about the savings plan could be done without significant disruption to current Employment Department operations, at an estimated one-time cost of approximately \$63,250.

If the Board seeks to have the Employment Department be more actively involved in providing technical assistance or in compliance services regarding the savings plan, that would require additional resources. In that event, the Employment Department would continue to coordinate with our partner agencies, and with the Board, to determine how the state can best provide the required technical assistance and compliance services.

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