

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Workforce

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued****SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Matthew Germer, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 4/1, 4/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Repeals law preventing certain employees of educational institutions from receiving unemployment insurance benefits during school breaks.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Unemployment insurance (UI) fees paid by school districts for ineligible non-instructional employees
- Low wages of non-instructional school employees
- 1991 change in federal restrictions allowing UI benefits for non-instructional school employees
- Cost to Oregon Education Department for additional UI claims
- UI reimbursement mechanism for educational institutions
- Cost to educational institutions of paying for UI benefits
- Interplay between UI and breaks for employees who are laid off
- Impact on school board budgets
- Seasonal nature of school employment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

(-1) Replaces the measure. Permits school employees who leave their jobs for good cause and without reasonable assurance of returning to the position in the subsequent academic term to receive Unemployment Insurance benefits. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

BACKGROUND: The Unemployment Insurance (UI) program, administered by the Oregon Employment Department, provides benefits to employees who lose their jobs through no fault of their own. Currently, under Oregon law, school employees who perform services other than instruction, research, or administration do not qualify for UI benefits during school breaks.

Senate Bill 470 repeals the law preventing these employees from receiving UI benefits during school breaks.