

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Workforce

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/20/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Meeting Dates: 04/01, 04/20

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Knopp, Rosenbaum, Thatcher

Prepared By: Matthew Germer, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits school employees who leave their jobs for good cause to receive unemployment insurance benefits. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Unemployment insurance (UI) taxes 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 and schools for additional UI claims
- UI reimbursement mechanism for educational institutions
- Interplay between UI benefits and academic breaks
- Impact on school district budgets
- Seasonal nature of school employment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

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, even if they do not have reasonable assurance of returning to the school in the subsequent term.

Senate Bill 470-A permits school employees who leave their jobs for good cause to receive unemployment insurance benefits.