

78th Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2016 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Workforce and General Government

MEASURE: SB 1534
CARRIER: Sen. Thatcher

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/04/16

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 02/04

Vote:

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

Prepared By: Jan Nordlund, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows school employees who provide services other than instructional, research or principal administration to receive unemployment insurance benefits without interruption during school breaks and recesses if the individual voluntarily left work, with good cause. Provides that any provision found to be out of conformity with federal laws to be no longer in effect. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Number of people expected to be affected
- Inclusion of escape clause in event proposal does not conform with federal laws and regulations
- Example of a person who voluntarily terminates employment with good cause

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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 principal administration do not qualify for UI benefits during school breaks and recesses, even if they do not have reasonable assurance of returning to the school in the subsequent term.

Senate Bill 1534 allows school employees who leave their jobs for good cause to receive unemployment insurance benefits during summer and school breaks. The measure applies only to employees who are not instructors, researchers or principal administrators at public and nonprofit schools, including higher education institutions.