

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Business and Labor

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/19/16

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 02/19

Vote:

Yeas: 8 - Barreto, Doherty, Esquivel, Evans, Heard, Holvey, Kennemer, Weidner

Exc: 3 - Buckley, Fagan, Nosse

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 Provides that any provision found to be out of conformity with federal laws to be no longer in effect.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:

- Work group convened to discuss proposal
- Situation where employee works 9 months of year and paid on 12-month basis
- Number of employees who may file such claim
- Example of who might voluntarily terminate employment with good cause
- Proposal does not extend benefits beyond maximum 26 weeks
- Whether employee who is laid off could file claim
- Support of Oregon School Boards Association

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.