

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER: Sen. Gelser

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued
Revenue: Revenue impact issued

Action Date: 02/25/16**Action:** Do Pass.**Meeting Dates:** 02/25**Vote:****Senate**

Yeas: 8 - Bates, Devlin, Girod, Johnson, Monroe, Roblan, Shields, Steiner Hayward

Nays: 3 - Hansell, Thomsen, Whitsett

Exc: 1 - Winters

House

Yeas: 10 - Buckley, Gomberg, Huffman, Komp, Nathanson, Rayfield, Read, Smith, Whisnant, Williamson

Nays: 2 - McLane, Whitsett

Prepared By: Krista Dauenhauer, Budget Analyst**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The bill provides an additional twenty-six weeks of UI benefits for lockout workers in an amount equal to the individuals most recent unemployment claim. Temporary lockout benefits are not to be paid if an individual qualifies for other regular UI benefits or federal extensions; nor are benefits to be paid for weeks that begin after the week in which the lockout ends. The bill permits the retroactive payment of temporary lockout benefits to individuals in a lockout if weekly benefits are claimed by the individual within 60 days of passage of this legislation. If provisions of the bill are determined to be uncompliant with the requirements of the Social Security Act or the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, then the legislation will be considered null and the Director of the Employment Department will be required to notify Legislative Counsel that such a determination has been made.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- State government participation level in the current lockout in Albany
- History of lockout benefits in the state
- Current status of the locked-out workers
- National labor negotiations and how they impact the state
- Impact to the UI Trust

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Unemployment insurance (UI) benefits are generally allowed for up to 26 weeks. To receive benefits, one must be actively seeking and willing to accept employment. Individuals involved in a labor dispute are not eligible to receive unemployment benefits; however, there is an exception in ORS 657.200 (3) if the unemployment is due to a lockout. This exception was created in 2007.

Employees at a metals manufacturing facility in Albany are currently locked out of their jobs and have been since August 15, 2015. They are eligible to receive unemployment benefits for 26 weeks if they meet other qualifying criteria.