

SB 41 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Workforce

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Meeting Dates: 3/27, 3/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Clarifies that Employment Department (Department) may disclose information in department records to public universities and Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU). Authorizes Department to disclose information in department records to regionally accredited private nonprofit institutions of higher education as needed for certain planning and analysis. Authorizes Department to disclose to any person establishment level information secured from public universities and OHSU, employment class size assigned to employing unit, and list of largest employers by geographical regions.

Updates citation to controlling federal law. Updates administrative duties and authorities of Department Director concerning workforce and labor data analysis. Repeals Occupational Program Planning System. Deletes provisions related to discontinued Shared Information System.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Responds to guidance from U.S. Department of Labor that certain provisions of SB 41 could put Employment Department (Department) out of conformance with current federal guidelines. Ensures conformity with federal guidelines by removing authorization to share confidential information with accredited private universities, and to disclose employment size-class of business; "Top 10" business lists for Oregon statewide counties, workforce areas, and larger cities; and online mapping tools that show businesses as dots on map. Clarifies that current data-sharing partnership between Employment Department and the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) remains in place.

BACKGROUND:

The Workforce and Economic Research Division of the Employment Department (Department) provides contractual services to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries, and other workforce-related agencies to provide information about the performance of their programs. The Department also provides information to the public through presentations, publications and reports, its website, and responses to individual requests.

Senate Bill (SB) 41 updates and expands the statutes governing the Department's workforce and labor data analysis responsibilities. Currently, the Department may share certain confidential information with government entities, including Oregon public universities. SB 41 extends that authority to share information with regionally accredited private nonprofit institutions of higher education. It also authorizes the Department to disclose to any person employment size class information of employers and top ten employer lists for different geographies. SB 41 clarifies that home care workers are not state employees for purposes of workforce and labor market information, and it repeals the Occupational Program Planning System