

SB 476 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Prepared By: C. Ross, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands Reemployment Assistance Program that provides financial incentives to employers that hire injured workers to include disabled veterans.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Consumer and Business Services administers return-to-work programs in Oregon, including the Reemployment Assistance Program. The Reemployment Assistance Program includes two major programs (and several smaller programs): the Employer-at-Injury Program and the Preferred Worker Program (PWP). PWP provides financial incentives to employers that hire "Preferred Workers" - workers that are permanently disabled due to a compensable, on-the-job injury or occupational disease, who are unable to return to regular work. If an injured worker is hired as a Preferred Worker and has a new injury during the first three years of reemployment, then the Reemployment

Assistance Program pays the claims costs, including the administrative costs. PWP also pays wage subsidies, direct employment purchases, and worksite modifications.

Senate Bill 476 adds disabled veterans to the definition of "preferred worker" so that employers may receive the same benefits for hiring them as are available for hiring permanently disabled injured workers, through the Reemployment Assistance Program.