

SB 41 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Hansell

Senate Committee On Workforce

Action Date: 03/29/17

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Gelser, Hansell, Knopp, Monnes Anderson, Taylor

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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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 to any person establishment level information secured from public universities and OHSU. Updates citation to controlling federal law. Updates administrative duties and authorities of Department Director concerning workforce and labor data analysis. Clarifies home care workers are not state employees for purposes of workforce and labor market information. Repeals Occupational Program Planning System. Deletes provisions related to discontinued Shared Information System.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Updates to statutes regarding Department's research division, including repeal of obsolete language and clarification of authority to share specified information
- Definition of home care workers for purposes of collecting and analyzing data

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Removes authorization to share confidential information with accredited private universities. Removes authorization to disclose to any person employment size class of business or list of largest businesses by geographical areas. 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 41-A updates and expands the statutes governing the Department's workforce and labor data analysis responsibilities. It clarifies that the Department may share certain confidential information with government entities, including Oregon public universities and the Oregon Health and Science University. It also clarifies that home care workers are not state employees for purposes of workforce and labor market information, and that the current data-sharing partnership between the Employment Department and the Public Employees Retirement System remains in place. Senate Bill 41-A also repeals the Occupational Program Planning System and deletes provisions related to the discontinued Shared Information System.

This Summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.