

Senate Bill 1559

Sponsored by Senator WINTERS (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs state agencies to establish procedure for employees to anonymously disclose certain information.

Requires Department of Justice to establish mandatory training program regarding whistleblowing activities in this state. Requires department to establish manual describing department's standards and procedures for implementing Whistleblower Law.

Directs Bureau of Labor and Industries to study and report findings and recommendations regarding whistleblowing activities in this state.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to protected activities of public employees; creating new provisions; and amending ORS
3 659A.221.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 659A.221 is amended to read:

6 659A.221. (1) The Bureau of Labor and Industries by rule shall ensure that the requirements of
7 ORS 659A.200 to 659A.224 are applied uniformly to all public employers. Each public employer may
8 adopt rules, consistent with Bureau of Labor and Industries rules, that apply to that public employer
9 and that also implement ORS 659A.200 to 659A.224.

10 (2) A public employer may establish by rule an optional procedure whereby an employee who
11 wishes to disclose information described in ORS 659A.203 (1)(b) may disclose information first to the
12 supervisor, or if the supervisor is involved, to the supervisor next higher, but the employer must
13 protect the employee against retaliatory or disciplinary action by any supervisor for such disclosure.

14 **(3) Notwithstanding ORS 659A.206, a public employer that is an agency of state govern-**
15 **ment, as defined in ORS 174.111, shall establish an optional procedure whereby an employee**
16 **who wishes to disclose information described in ORS 659A.203 (1)(b) may do so anonymously.**

17 **SECTION 2.** Section 3 of this 2018 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 659A.200 to
18 **659A.224.**

19 **SECTION 3.** (1) The Department of Justice shall establish by rule a mandatory training
20 **program to train all department supervisors and employees on employee rights and prohib-**
21 **ited employer conduct with respect to whistleblowing activities in this state.**

22 **(2) At a minimum the training program must:**

23 **(a) Apprise trainees of the uniform standards and procedures provided in the manual**
24 **described under subsection (3) of this section.**

25 **(b) Provide information about the procedures that may be used to disclose information**
26 **under ORS 659A.203.**

27 **(c) Educate trainees of rights that are available and conduct that is prohibited under ORS**
28 **659A.200 to 659A.224.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **(3) The department shall develop a manual describing the department's standards and**
2 **procedures for implementing ORS 659A.200 to 659A.224. The standards and procedures must**
3 **be consistent with Bureau of Labor and Industries rules that also implement ORS 659A.200**
4 **to 659A.224.**

5 **SECTION 4.** **The Bureau of Labor and Industries shall study and report findings and**
6 **recommendations regarding whistleblowing activities in this state.**

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