

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

80th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2019 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

Measure: HB 3120 - 1

***Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official***

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Date: April 5, 2019

Measure Description:

Provides that individual may not be disqualified for unemployment insurance benefits for voluntarily leaving work, failing to apply for available suitable work or failing to accept suitable work, if individual or member of individual's immediate family was victim of crime of intimidation, individual believes that individual or immediate family member could become victim of crime of intimidation or individual seeks to protect individual or immediately family member from crime of intimidation.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Employment Department (OED)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure are anticipated to be minimal - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

The Oregon Employment Department (OED) administers the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust Fund, which provides continuing wages when a person leaves employment for good cause or is laid off. Individuals must continue to seek work while receiving UI benefits. Exceptions are made if the person receiving UI benefits believes they, or their immediate family, could be a victim of domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault should they apply for, accept, or continue to work in a job. HB 3120 - 1 adds intimidation to the list of exceptions, as defined by ORS 166.165 and ORS 166.155, or determined by the OED director by rule.

This measure will likely increase UI benefit payments from the UI Trust Fund. Providing UI benefits to individuals facing intimidation is a new requirement, so OED does not have data on approximately how many new UI claims would be made as a result of this bill. However, because the UI Trust Fund is expended as Other Funds Nonlimited, this measure will not require any adjustment to the OED budget.

This measure is expected to have a minimal administrative cost to implement which can be absorbed by current agency resources.