HB 3255 -1   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates:	4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires education employers to provide eligible employees with materials and assistance that increase awareness of, and participation in, federal public service loan forgiveness programs. Defines education employers and specifies requirements for materials. Requires education employers to direct employees to become familiar with federal public service loan forgiveness programs and to assist other employees with determining eligibility and applying for public service loan forgiveness programs. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

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

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Modifies definition of education employer to clarify employment in a full-time capacity.

BACKGROUND:

The U.S. Department of Education operates several programs that cancel the outstanding balance of certain federal student loans for individuals who are employed in public service professions. The Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program allows forgiveness of the remaining loan balance after 120 monthly payments for individuals who are employed by government organizations, certain tax-exempt not-for-profit organizations, and the AmeriCorps and Peace Corps volunteer service organizations. The Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program (TLFP) allows forgiveness of outstanding loan balances for teachers at schools that serve low-income students after five academic years of full-time service. Senate Bill 670 (2011) specified the classifications of schools in Oregon at which a teacher must teach in order to qualify for public service loan forgiveness.

House Bill 3255 requires education employers to provide information and materials to employees on the federal PSLF program, and directs employees to become familiar with and assist other employees with participating in the program.