

Senate Bill 481

Sponsored by Senator TAYLOR (Presession 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**.

Narrows exception to overtime requirements when employee is engaged in making necessary repairs or in case of emergency.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to work time limits; amending ORS 652.020; and prescribing an effective date.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 652.020 is amended to read:

5 652.020. (1) As used in this section:

6 (a) "Machinery" means material-handling equipment and power-driven machines powered by
7 electricity, nuclear or fossil fuels, hydroelectric power, geothermal power or another power source
8 other than by human hand, foot or breath.

9 (b) "Manufacturing" means the process of using machinery to transform materials, substances
10 or components into new products.

11 (c) "Manufacturing establishment" means an establishment engaged in manufacturing.

12 (d) "Perishable product" [*means*] **is** any product that may spoil, deteriorate or undergo other
13 material changes that render it unsuitable for the use for which it was produced. "*Perishable*
14 *product*" [*includes*], **including** agricultural crops, meat and fish.

15 (e) "Undue hardship period" means the period of time during which perishable product must be
16 processed after harvesting, slaughter or catch.

17 (f) "Workweek" means a fixed period of time established by an employer that reflects a regularly
18 recurring period of 168 hours or seven consecutive 24-hour periods. [*A workweek may begin on any*
19 *day of the week and any hour of the day and need not coincide with a calendar week. The beginning*
20 *of the workweek may be changed if the change is intended to be permanent and is not designed to evade*
21 *overtime requirements.*]

22 (2)(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection and subsection (3) of this
23 section, an employer may not require or permit an employee employed in any mill, factory or other
24 manufacturing establishment in this state to work more than:

25 (A) 10 hours in any one day; or

26 (B) 55 hours in any one workweek.

27 (b) An employer may permit an employee described in paragraph (a) of this subsection to work
28 up to 60 hours in one workweek if the employee requests or consents in writing to work more than
29 55 hours in the workweek.

30 (c) Notwithstanding paragraph (b) of this subsection, during the period of time that an employer
31 is eligible for an undue hardship period exemption under subsection (4) of this section, an employer

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 may permit an employee described in paragraph (a) of this subsection to work:

2 (A) Up to 84 hours per workweek for four workweeks; and

3 (B) Up to 80 hours per workweek for the remainder of the undue hardship period.

4 (d) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, an employer may not require or permit
5 an employee employed in a sawmill, planing mill, shingle mill or logging camp to work more than:

6 (A) Eight hours, exclusive of one hour, more or less, in one day; or

7 (B) 48 hours in one workweek.

8 (3)(a) An employee may work overtime up to three hours more than the applicable limit for the
9 maximum allowable hours of employment in one day as described in subsection (2) of this section.

10 (b) An employer shall compensate an employee who works overtime hours described in para-
11 graph (a) of this subsection at one and one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay for each
12 overtime hour or portion of an hour the employee works.

13 (c) An employer shall calculate an employee's overtime compensation on a daily basis under
14 paragraph (b) of this subsection and on a weekly basis under ORS 653.261 (1) and pay the greater
15 of the two amounts if, during the same workweek, the employee works more than:

16 (A) The applicable limit for the maximum allowable hours of employment in one day as described
17 in subsection (2) of this section; and

18 (B) Forty hours in one workweek as described in ORS 653.261 (1).

19 (d) An employer that makes an overtime payment to an employee pursuant to paragraph (c) of
20 this subsection satisfies the overtime compensation requirements under this subsection and ORS
21 653.261 (1).

22 (4)(a) An employer is eligible for an undue hardship period exemption from the restrictions on
23 maximum workweek hours under subsection (2)(a) of this section if the employer, in the ordinary
24 course of the employer's business, processes perishable products. The undue hardship period ex-
25 emption shall be effective only during an undue hardship period. An employer may be eligible for
26 more than one undue hardship period exemption in a calendar year. However, the combined total
27 duration of the employer's undue hardship period exemptions may not exceed 21 workweeks in a
28 calendar year.

29 (b) To claim an undue hardship period exemption, an employer must provide notice of the undue
30 hardship period to the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries and obtain written
31 consent from each employee whom the employer will request to work more than 55 hours in any
32 workweek during the undue hardship period.

33 (c)(A) The notice the employer sends to the commissioner under paragraph (b) of this subsection
34 must be in a form prescribed by the commissioner by rule and include a description of the reasons
35 for the undue hardship period, the start and expected end dates of the undue hardship period and
36 any other information required by the commissioner.

37 (B) The employee's written consent shall be in a form prescribed by the commissioner by rule
38 and include:

39 (i) A description of the employer's reasons for the undue hardship period;

40 (ii) The start and expected end dates of the undue hardship period;

41 (iii) A statement that the employer may require the employee to work up to 84 hours per
42 workweek for up to four workweeks during the undue hardship period;

43 (iv) A statement that the employer may require the employee to work up to 80 hours per
44 workweek for the remainder of the undue hardship period;

45 (v) A statement that the employee consents to working up to 84 hours per workweek for up to

1 four workweeks during the undue hardship period and up to 80 hours per workweek for the re-
 2 mainder of the undue hardship period;

3 (vi) Contact information for the Bureau of Labor and Industries; and

4 (vii) Any other information required by the commissioner.

5 (5) An employer may not:

6 (a) Require any employee employed in a mill, factory or other manufacturing establishment in
 7 this state to begin a work shift less than 10 hours after the end of the employee's previous work
 8 shift if the employee's previous work shift totaled eight or more hours, unless the employer requires
 9 the employee to work additional hours due to disruptions in business operations caused by a power
 10 outage, major equipment breakdown, severe weather or similar emergency outside the employer's
 11 control;

12 (b) Require or permit any employee to work in any place described in this section for more
 13 hours than the hours provided for in this section during any day of 24 hours;

14 (c) Permit an overseer, superintendent or other agent of the employer to violate this section;

15 or

16 (d) Coerce an employee into consenting to work more than 55 hours in a given workweek.

17 (6) This section does not apply to:

18 (a) An employee performing work as a member of a logging train crew, as a guard or as a boiler
 19 operator;

20 (b) An employee engaged in the transportation of workers to and from work;

21 (c) An employee engaged in the care of quarters or livestock, the conducting of mess halls, the
 22 superintendence and direction of work or the loading and removal of finished forest product;

23 (d) An employee when engaged in making necessary repairs or in the case of emergency where
 24 life or property is in imminent danger **unless the period to make such repairs or the period of**
 25 **such an emergency exceeds three weeks;** or

26 (e) An employee employed in a mill, factory or other manufacturing establishment whose prin-
 27 cipal duties are administrative in nature or who is not otherwise engaged in the direct processing
 28 of goods in the usual course of the employee's duties.

29 (7) Subsections (2) to (5) of this section do not apply to employees who are represented by a
 30 labor organization for purposes of collective bargaining with their employer, provided limits on the
 31 required hours of work and overtime payment have been agreed to between the employer and labor
 32 organization, or if no agreement is reached, then, for the purposes of this subsection, such limits and
 33 payments shall not be deemed to be changed from the previous collective bargaining agreement be-
 34 tween the employer and labor organization unless the employees have been locked out or are en-
 35 gaged in a strike or the employer has unilaterally implemented new terms and conditions of
 36 employment.

37 **(8)(a) For the purpose of calculating a workweek, a workweek may begin on any day of**
 38 **the week and at any hour of the day and need not coincide with a calendar week.**

39 **(b) The beginning of the workweek may be changed if the change is intended to be per-**
 40 **manent and is not designed to evade overtime requirements.**

41 [(8)(a)] **(9)(a)** In addition to any other remedy provided by law, an employee has a private cause
 42 of action against an employer if the employer violates subsection (2) or (3) of this section by re-
 43 quiring the employee to work more than:

44 (A) Three hours more than the applicable limit for the maximum allowable hours of employment
 45 in one day; or

1 (B) The applicable limit for the maximum allowable hours of employment in one workweek.

2 (b) If the employee prevails in an action under this section, the court may enter judgment
3 against the employer for:

4 (A) Actual damages or \$3,000 per claim, whichever is greater;

5 (B) Equitable relief; and

6 (C) Liquidated damages in an amount equal to twice the employee's overtime wages earned
7 during the period not allowed under subsection (2) or (3) of this section.

8 (c) In an action brought under this section, the court may award to the prevailing plaintiff costs,
9 disbursements and reasonable attorney fees. Any attorney fee agreement is subject to approval by
10 the court.

11 [(9)(a)] (10)(a) Notwithstanding ORS 652.900, in addition to any other penalty provided by law,
12 the commissioner may assess the following civil penalties against an employer that the commissioner
13 determines has coerced an employee into consenting to work more than 55 hours in one workweek:

14 (A) \$2,000 per violation if the employer coerced an employee into consenting under subsection
15 (2)(b) of this section to work more than 55 hours in any given workweek; or

16 (B) \$3,000 per violation if the employer coerced an employee into consenting under subsection
17 (4) of this section to work more than 55 hours per workweek in any given workweek during an un-
18 due hardship period.

19 (b) Each violation described in paragraph (a) of this subsection is a separate and distinct offense.
20 In the case of a continuing violation, each workweek's continuance is a separate and distinct vio-
21 lation.

22 (c) Civil penalties authorized by this subsection shall be imposed in the manner provided in ORS
23 183.745. All sums collected as penalties under this subsection shall be applied and paid over as
24 provided in ORS 652.900.

25 **SECTION 2. This 2021 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2021**
26 **regular session of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.**

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