

SB 205 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

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Meeting Dates: 3/13, 3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows Department of Revenue to disclose and give access to the Employment Department, for purpose of detecting whether identity theft or fraud has been committed, otherwise confidential taxpayer information. Allows Director of Employment Department to disclose to Department of Revenue, information reported to Employment Department by employers and employees under unemployment insurance, and paid family and medical leave programs, for purpose of detecting potential identity theft or fraudulent claims. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Example of fraudulent tax returns and fraudulent unemployment benefits
- Other information sharing between Department of Revenue (DOR) and Oregon Employment Department (OED)
- Location of fraud origination
- Amount of discovered fraudulent activity in past years
- Example of how data sharing between respective agencies would potentially work
- Intent for limited data sharing between respective agencies
- Potential for both DOR and OED to initiate disclosure and/or access to information.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Unless specified in statute, tax return data is generally not allowed to be disclosed. For example, ORS 314.835 prohibits the disclosure of tax return particulars except when specifically allowed. Disclosure of information of the Oregon Employment Department (OED) relating to unemployment insurance, employment service, workforce and labor market information, and paid family and medical leave programs is subject to similar limitations.

Beginning in 2020, (SB 1703, 2020 2nd Special Session) temporary authority was provided to the Department of Revenue (DOR) allowing DOR to disclose and give access to specified tax return information to the Department of Employment. The authority was extended by HB 3043 (2021) which authorized DOR to share the data with OED until December 31, 2022, or 90 days following the expiration of any PUA-like federal program administered by OED, or until the Governor revoked the authority, whichever occurred first. SB 205 provides continual authority to Department of Revenue and Oregon Employment Department to share specified information for purposes of detecting potential identity theft or fraudulent claims.