Senate Bill 78

Sponsored by Senator THATCHER (at the request of Representative Kevin Mannix) (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.

Directs state agencies to offer reinstatement to employees who were terminated or who retired because of COVID-19 vaccine mandates.

Directs Public Employees Retirement Board to adopt rules allowing retired members who are eligible for reinstatement to cancel retirement.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to state employees affected by COVID-19 vaccine mandates.

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

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section, “state agency” means any officer, board, commission, department, division or institution in the executive branch of state government.

(2) A state agency shall offer the opportunity for reinstatement, with no loss of seniority or accrued benefits, to any person:

(a) Whose employment was terminated because the person refused to obtain a vaccination against COVID-19 that was required as a condition of employment; or

(b) Who retired rather than obtain a vaccination against COVID-19 that was required as a condition of employment.

(3) The Public Employees Retirement Board shall adopt rules allowing a retired member of the Public Employees Retirement System who is eligible for reinstatement under subsection (2) of this section to be reemployed by the state agency from which the member retired and for the member to again become an active member of the system as if the member had never retired. The rules may require a reinstated member to pay, in a lump sum, any amount of retirement benefits drawn by the member and interest on that amount.

SECTION 2. Within 30 days after the effective date of this 2023 Act, a state agency shall notify all employees of the agency who are entitled to reinstatement under section 1 of this 2023 Act of the provisions of section 1 of this 2023 Act. An employee has 30 days after the date of the notice to accept the offer of reinstatement.

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.

LC 1730