



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Employment Department

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March 5, 2024

The Honorable Senator Mark Meek, Chair
The Honorable Senator Brian Boquist, Vice-Chair
Senate Finance and Revenue Committee
900 Court Street NE,
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Follow-up information on House Bill 4035

Dear Chair Meek and Vice-Chair Boquist,

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to answer any questions about the bill, House Bill 4035, to increase administrative funding for the Oregon Employment Department on Monday, March 4, at 3:00 pm.

Senator Jama asked about how many positions would be funded by this change in administrative funding levels. I responded that I believed the answer was 57 or 58 positions, but that I would correct that if I was incorrect. There are currently 57 positions filled out of a total of 68 positions provided in HB 5049. For the current biennium, HB 4035 would essentially continue the positions that were provided, on a limited duration basis with funding through March 2024, in HB 5049 (2023). Any future staffing would be addressed as part of the next biennial budget development processes.

Senator Findley subsequently asked how many total positions are currently vacant for the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program. The Department has 57 budgeted positions that are currently vacant (including the 11 vacant positions from HB 5049). If HB 4035 is passed into law, now that we have completed the roll-out of our modernized system, Frances, for the UI program, the Department would work to fill these positions quickly. Our goal would be to use the additional funding provided by HB 4035 to hire and train people rapidly so that we can provide improved customer service to Oregonians as soon as possible.

We hope this information is helpful. Of course, feel free to let us know if there's anything else we can share about our budget or HB 4035.

Sincerely,

David Gerstenfeld, Director
Oregon Employment Department

cc: Chris Allanach, Legislative Revenue Officer
Dae Baek, Senior Economist



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