75th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - 2009 Regular Session STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY Senate Committee on Judiciary

MEASURE: CARRIER:

REVENUE: No revenue impact	
FISCAL: No fiscal impact	
Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bonamici, Boquist, Dingfelder, Whitsett, Prozanski
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Bill Taylor, Committee Counsel
Meeting Dates:	3/25, 4/6, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Clarifies that a person eligible for and receiving assistance pursuant to Title IV-A of the Social Security Act is presumed not able to pay child support. Allows a person seeking relief from an out-of-state support enforcement order to challenge the order in the originating state or in this state in the same manner that an Oregon order could be challenged. Clarifies that a court may give a dollar for dollar credit against child support arrearages for any Social Security or Veterans' benefits paid for arrearages, not just lump sum payments. Establishes that past support arrears owed at the time of application for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families are not required to be assigned to the state. Allows the Attorney General declare a "period of significant unemployment". Allows the Support Enforcement Division during a period of significant unemployment to suspend or modify a support enforcement order for six months.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

• Inability to find even minimum wage jobs

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Allows the Attorney General declare a "period of significant unemployment". Allows the Support Enforcement Division during a period of significant unemployment to suspend or modify a support enforcement order for six months.

BACKGROUND: Pursuant to Title IV of the Social Security Act, the federal government gives the states block grants for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families. In return for these funds, the federal government places restrictions and requirements upon the use of this money. Certain people are presumed unable to pay child support. This bill clarifies that someone receiving temporary assistance is presumed not able to pay child support.

Currently, it is assumed that the minimum child support payment is based on the assumption that an obligor-parent can obtain at least a minimum wage job. This is based on the assumption that minimum wage jobs are available. This is not true in many communities in Oregon.