

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	8 - 0 - 2
Yeas:	Barton, Edwards C., Esquivel, Holvey, Kennemer, Matthews, Witt, Schaufler
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Cameron, Thatcher
Prepared By:	Theresa Van Winkle, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/27, 3/20, 4/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes “economically distressed worker training” for eligible individuals. Establishes that a base year’s employer’s account may not be charged for economically distressed worker training, but allows the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund to be used to pay for the training. Requires the Employment Department to submit a report on economically distressed worker training no later than March 2, 2011. Repeals statute related to the policy and the application and eligibility criteria of the Displaced Worker Program. Establishes that the measure’s provisions are not retroactive to individuals who qualify prior to the measure’s enactment. Establishes sunset of January 2, 2012. Declares an emergency, effective the 91st day after sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Types of eligible training
- How the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides incentive funds for states in regards to enhancing unemployment insurance systems
- Number of states that provide benefits to part-time workers
- Impact of the measure on Oregon’s Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund
- How approved training programs would be financed

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND: HB 2624-A defines “economically distressed worker training” as either training and education that provide occupation-specific skills required in growth and demand occupations, as determined by the Employment Department; or retraining and basic education, including literacy skills, designed to prepare an individual, within a reasonable period not to exceed three years, for gainful employment or self-employment that is likely to become full-time employment that pays at least 110 percent of the state’s minimum wage. In order qualify as an “eligible economically distressed worker” and participating in eligible training, an individual must be unemployed, eligible for unemployment insurance (UI) benefits, and not disqualified to receive benefits, or are employed in work paying less than 110 percent of the state’s minimum wage.