

Enrolled
House Bill 2660

Sponsored by Representative SCHOUTEN, Senators DEMBROW, FREDERICK; Representatives ALONSO LEON, EVANS, FAHEY, GOMBERG, PILUSO, Senator ROBLAN (Presession filed.)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 657.221.

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

SECTION 1. ORS 657.221 is amended to read:

657.221. (1)(a) Benefits based on services performed in other than an instructional, research or principal administrative capacity for an educational institution or institution of higher education shall be payable to an individual in the same amount, on the same terms and subject to the same conditions as benefits payable on the basis of other service subject to this chapter. [However:]

[(a)] (b) **Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection**, benefits shall not be paid on the basis of such services for any week of unemployment that commences during a period between two successive academic years or terms if the individual performs such services in the first academic year or term and there is a reasonable assurance that the individual will perform any such services in the second academic year or term for any institution.]; *except that*

[(b)] (c) **Notwithstanding paragraph (b) of this subsection**, if benefits are denied to an individual for any week under paragraph [(a)] (b) of this subsection and such individual was not offered an opportunity to perform such services for the institution for the second of such academic years or terms, such individual shall be entitled, if otherwise eligible, to payment of benefits for each week for which the individual filed a timely claim for benefits and for which benefits were denied solely by reason of paragraph [(a)] (b) of this subsection.

(2) With respect to the application of this section, the following shall apply:

(a) An employee who terminates an employee-employer relationship by electing not to accept an offer of work for a subsequent academic year or term, other than by reason of labor negotiations or a labor dispute in progress, shall be deemed to have voluntarily left work. The effective date of such leaving shall be the date **on which** the individual notifies the institution of the election not to accept the offer of work for the subsequent period, except that if such individual continues to work under the terms of a previously existing contract or agreement, the effective date of leaving shall be the last day worked for the institution.

(b) [In the event] **If** the institution does not extend to the individual an offer of work or provide a reasonable assurance the individual is expected to return to work for the institution following the period between the academic years or terms, the separation from work shall be considered an involuntary leaving or layoff.

(3) With respect to any services described in subsection (1)(a) of this section, compensation payable on the basis of such services shall be denied to any individual for any week that commences

during an established and customary vacation period or holiday recess if such individual performs such services in the period immediately before such vacation period or holiday recess, and there is reasonable assurance that such individual will perform such services or any services described in ORS 657.167 (1) in the period immediately following such vacation period or holiday recess.

(4) With respect to any services described in subsection (1)(a) of this section, benefits based on such services shall be denied as specified in subsections (1) and (3) of this section to any individual who performed such services in an institution while in the employ of an education service district established by ORS chapter 334, providing 50 percent or more of the individual's time is in the performance of services in such institution.

(5) Subsections (1)(b), (3) and (4) of this section do not apply to benefits that are otherwise payable based on services consisting of the operation or maintenance of facilities or janitorial services.

[(5)] (6) [The provisions of] Subsections (1), (3) and (4) of this section [shall only] apply **only** to service performed for an educational institution or institution of higher education operated by:

- (a) A nonprofit employing unit;
- (b) This state;
- (c) A political subdivision **of this state**; or
- (d) An Indian tribe.

SECTION 2. Section 3 of this 2019 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 657.

SECTION 3. (1) An employer listed in subsection (2) of this section:

(a) May not inform an employee of the employer that the employee is ineligible for benefits unless the Director of the Employment Department has reviewed the employee's claim for benefits and determined that the employee is ineligible for benefits.

(b) Shall provide employees with any information about eligibility for benefits that is provided to the employer by the director.

(c) May provide employees with any other information about eligibility for benefits that is approved by the director.

(2) This section applies to an employer that is:

- (a) This state; or**
- (b) A political subdivision of this state.**

SECTION 4. The amendments to ORS 657.221 by section 1 of this 2019 Act apply to weeks of unemployment beginning on or after the effective date of this 2019 Act.

SECTION 5. (1) If the United States Secretary of Labor serves notice that any provisions of ORS 657.221, as amended by section 1 of this 2019 Act, or rules adopted under ORS 657.221, as amended by section 1 of this 2019 Act, fail to meet the requirements of the Social Security Act or the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, the nonconforming provisions or rules shall no longer be of any force or effect.

(2) The Director of the Employment Department shall notify the Legislative Counsel as soon as practicable after receipt of the notice described in subsection (1) of this section.

Passed by House March 13, 2019

Repassed by House June 5, 2019

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Passed by Senate May 16, 2019

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M,....., 2019

Approved:

.....M,....., 2019

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Kate Brown, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M,....., 2019

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Bev Clarno, Secretary of State