

House Bill 2660

Sponsored by Representative SCHOUTEN, Senators DEMBROW, FREDERICK; Representatives EVANS, GOMBERG, PILUSO, Senator ROBLAN (Pre-session 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**.

Removes prohibition on payment of unemployment insurance benefits to nonprofessional employees of educational institution providing facilities or janitorial services for weeks of unemployment commencing during period between two successive academic years or terms.

Prohibits reimbursable employer from advising, or communicating conclusion to, employee about employee's eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits. Requires reimbursable employer to provide employees with any information about eligibility for benefits that is provided to employer by Employment Department. Authorizes reimbursable employer to provide employees with any other information about eligibility for benefits that is approved by department.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits; creating new provisions; amending ORS
3 657.221; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 657.221 is amended to read:

6 657.221. (1)(a) Benefits based on services performed in other than an instructional, research or
7 principal administrative capacity for an educational institution or institution of higher education
8 shall be payable to an individual in the same amount, on the same terms and subject to the same
9 conditions as benefits payable on the basis of other service subject to this chapter. [*However:*]

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

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

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

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

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.

1 shall be the last day worked for the institution.

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

6 (3) With respect to any services described in subsection (1)(a) of this section, compensation
 7 payable on the basis of such services shall be denied to any individual for any week that commences
 8 during an established and customary vacation period or holiday recess if such individual performs
 9 such services in the period immediately before such vacation period or holiday recess, and there is
 10 reasonable assurance that such individual will perform such services or any services described in
 11 ORS 657.167 (1) in the period immediately following such vacation period or holiday recess.

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

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

20 *[(5)]* **(6) [The provisions of]** Subsections (1), (3) and (4) of this section *[shall only]* apply **only** to
 21 service performed for an educational institution or institution of higher education operated by:

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

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

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

28 **(a) May not advise, or communicate a conclusion to, an employee about the eligibility of**
 29 **the employee for benefits.**

30 **(b) Shall provide employees with any information about eligibility for benefits that is**
 31 **provided to the employer by the Employment Department.**

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

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

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

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

41 **SECTION 5. This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
 42 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect**
 43 **on its passage.**