

HB 3043 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Prepared By: Tyler Larson, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes Department of Revenue (DOR) to share tax return information with the Employment Department for specified purposes until 90 days following the expiration of any temporary federal program related to COVID-19 to provide benefits based on self-employment or similar earnings, or December 31, 2022, or the date the Governor revokes the authority, whichever occurs first. Ratifies any disclosures made by DOR after February 28, 2021, that are in compliance with the Governor's additional powers during the existence of an emergency as in effect February 28, 2021. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 1703 (2020 Second Special Session) authorized the Department of Revenue, during declared emergencies, to share information from an individual's income tax returns with the Employment Department (OED) to enable the administration of federal or state laws or programs that require such information to verify the identity and income of program applicants. One example is Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), a federal program administered by OED that provides unemployment benefits to those who are not eligible for regular unemployment insurance, including independent contractors and others who are self-employed. Access to tax returns filed with the DOR would enable the OED to process PUA claims more quickly. The authority to share this data ended March 1, 2021.

House Bill 3043-A authorizes DOR to share this data with OED until December 31, 2022, or 90 days following the expiration of any PUA-like federal program administered by OED, or until the Governor revokes the authority, whichever occurs first.