

Senate Bill 650

Sponsored by Senator GORSEK (Presession 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**.

Creates Public Assistance Protection Fund. Requires Department of Revenue to impose assessment on certain employers with at least 100 employees if median salaries or wages paid to employees residing in Oregon would qualify individual or individual's dependents to receive public assistance. Assessments collected are transferred to and deposited in equal amounts to Education Stability Fund, Oregon Health Authority Fund to provide grants to counties for county health programs, Department of Education to pay grants to school districts for capital improvements to and supplies for primary and secondary schools and Public Employees' Benefit Account to offset pension liabilities of school districts.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to large businesses with low-wage workers; prescribing an effective date; and providing for
3 revenue raising that requires approval by a three-fifths majority.

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

5 **SECTION 1. (1) The Public Assistance Protection Fund is created in the State Treasury,**
6 **separate and distinct from the General Fund consisting of assessments collected under sec-**
7 **tion 2 of this 2021 Act, appropriations to the Public Assistance Protection Fund by the Leg-**
8 **islative Assembly and other public or private contributions to the fund.**

9 **(2) Moneys in the Public Assistance Protection Fund are continuously appropriated to the**
10 **Department of Revenue to carry out the provisions of section 2 of this 2021 Act.**

11 **(3) Interest earned on the Public Assistance Protection Fund shall be credited to the**
12 **fund.**

13 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:**

14 **(a) "Public assistance" means:**

15 **(A) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits as defined in ORS 411.806.**

16 **(B) Oregon Supplemental Income Program benefits described in ORS 411.706.**

17 **(C) State Family Pre-SSI/SSDI program benefits under ORS 412.014.**

18 **(D) Health Care for All Oregon Children program benefits under ORS 414.231.**

19 **(E) Medical assistance, as defined in ORS 414.025, provided to individuals described in**
20 **ORS 414.706.**

21 **(F) Other means-tested benefits paid to residents of this state by an agency of the state**
22 **or a local government, as defined in ORS 174.116.**

23 **(b) "Subsidized large business" means a business that:**

24 **(A) Employs directly, through its subsidiaries or through its franchisees, at least 100**
25 **full-time or part-time employees worldwide; and**

26 **(B) Operates in this state and is primarily engaged in retail distribution or services, food**
27 **service, hospitality services or call center services.**

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 **(2) The division of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services that serves as the**
2 **department's office of economic analysis shall calculate annually the:**

3 **(a) Maximum income level for an individual or family to qualify for any type of public**
4 **assistance; and**

5 **(b) Cost to the state of public assistance for which an individual or an individual and the**
6 **individual's dependents would qualify based on the individual's income and the associated**
7 **administrative costs of providing the public assistance.**

8 **(3) A subsidized large business shall report to the Department of Revenue, in the form**
9 **and manner prescribed by the department the:**

10 **(a) Number of the business' employees who reside in this state and the number of such**
11 **employees who have dependents; and**

12 **(b) Median wages or salaries paid by the business to employees residing in this state.**

13 **(4) Each tax year the department shall impose an assessment on a subsidized large**
14 **business that reports a median income for the business' resident employees that would**
15 **qualify for the receipt of public assistance as determined under subsection (2)(a) of this**
16 **section. The assessment shall be equal to the number of resident employees multiplied by the**
17 **cost of public assistance based on the median income of the resident employees as deter-**
18 **mined under subsection (3)(b) of this section.**

19 **(5) Assessments collected under this section shall be deposited in the Public Assistance**
20 **Protection Fund established in section 1 of this 2021 Act.**

21 **(6) Each year on a date set by the Department of Revenue, after deducting the cost to**
22 **the department to administer this section and setting aside reserves necessary to cover the**
23 **cost of projected refunds of assessments that may be due, the department shall transfer the**
24 **balance of moneys in the Public Assistance Protection Fund as follows:**

25 **(a) Twenty-five percent shall be transferred to and deposited in the Education Stability**
26 **Fund;**

27 **(b) Twenty-five percent shall be transferred to and deposited in the Oregon Health Au-**
28 **thority Fund established by ORS 413.101, for the purpose of providing grants to counties to**
29 **administer the counties' health programs;**

30 **(c) Twenty-five percent shall be transferred to and deposited in the State Treasury to the**
31 **credit of the Department of Education for the purpose of providing grants to school districts**
32 **for the costs of capital improvements to and supplies for primary and secondary schools; and**

33 **(d) Twenty-five percent shall be transferred to and deposited in the Public Employees'**
34 **Benefit Account created by ORS 243.165, to be applied by the Public Employees' Benefit**
35 **Board to offset the pension liabilities of school district public employers.**

36 **(7) The Department of Revenue may adopt rules as necessary to carry out the provisions**
37 **of this section.**

38 **(8)(a) The Department of Revenue may enter into interagency agreements or take other**
39 **steps as necessary to obtain and share information with other state and local agencies if**
40 **necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. Information received or shared by the**
41 **department under this subsection is not subject to public disclosure under ORS 192.311 to**
42 **192.478 if the information is otherwise protected from disclosure under ORS 192.345 or**
43 **192.355.**

44 **(b) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to share**
45 **information with the Department of Revenue as the department deems necessary to carry**

1 out the provisions of this section to the extent permitted by laws related to confidentiality.

2 SECTION 3. Section 2 of this 2021 Act applies to tax years beginning on or after January
3 1, 2021.

4 SECTION 4. This 2021 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2021
5 regular session of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

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