

SB 1584 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Labor and Business

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Meeting Dates: 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure removes two reasons a worker may refuse an offer of modified employment without termination of temporary total disability benefits under Oregon's workers' compensation laws.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In Oregon, workers' compensation laws require employers to maintain insurance coverage for their employees and beneficiaries for compensation of compensable injuries. Oregon law defines compensable injury, and it includes an accidental injury arising out of and in the course of employment requiring medical services or resulting in disability or death. Employers must either be self-insured as specified in law or be a carrier-insured employer. Carrier-insured employers are those who provide workers' compensation coverage through the State Accident Insurance Fund (SAIF) Corporation or another insurer authorized by law to transact workers' compensation insurance in Oregon. The Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) maintains a Workers' Compensation Division that administers and regulates Oregon's workers' compensation laws and rules.

Oregon law also defines permanent total disability and temporary total disability and establishes compensation benefits for both. Temporary total disability benefits may continue until a physician or nurse practitioner releases the worker to modified employment and such employment is offered in writing to the worker and the worker fails to begin such employment. However, Oregon law provides several bases or reasons for a worker to refuse an offer of modified employment without loss of temporary total disability benefits.

Senate Bill 1584 removes two reasons a worker may refuse an offer of modified employment without termination of temporary total disability benefits under Oregon's workers' compensation laws.