

SB 916 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Prepared By: Whitney Perez, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure amends existing law to specify that an individual who is otherwise eligible for unemployment insurance benefits is not disqualified for any week that the Director of the Employment Department finds that the individual is unemployed because of a labor dispute at the factory, establishment, or other premises at which the individual is or was last employed or at which the individual claims employment rights by union agreement. Makes conforming amendments. Applies to weeks as defined in ORS 657.010 that begin on or after the effective date of the measure. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Generally, unemployment insurance (UI) provides money to people who have lost their job or have had their hours reduced. Weekly payments of unemployment insurance benefits support people as they look for employment. Unemployment insurance is supported through contributions from Oregon employers into the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. The Oregon Employment Department (OED) administers the UI program in Oregon. The UI program must comply with both federal and state law. OED collects the contributions that support the program, determine eligibility for UI benefits, pay benefits, and work to prevent fraud.

Currently, a person is disqualified for UI benefits for any week that the Director of OED determines that the unemployment of the person is due to a labor dispute that is in active progress at the person's place of employment. There are exceptions to this law, such as when the unemployment is due to a lockout.

Senate Bill 916 amends existing law by providing that a person is not disqualified from UI benefits for any week that the person is unemployed due to a labor dispute in active progress at the person's place of employment.