

Senate Bill 37

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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**.

Allows Director of Employment Department to transfer to and assess against successor employing unit or successor employer certain unemployment insurance tax liabilities.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to transfer of unemployment insurance tax liabilities to successor employers; creating new
3 provisions; and amending ORS 657.683 and 657.875.

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

5 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2005 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 657.480 to**
6 **657.487.**

7 **SECTION 2. (1) For any amounts owed by an employer for contributions or interest as-**
8 **essed pursuant to ORS 657.681 or for taxes, interest or penalties that may be collected un-**
9 **der ORS 657.642, the Director of the Employment Department may transfer those amounts**
10 **to and assess those amounts against a successor employing unit, as described in ORS 657.480,**
11 **or a successor employer operating substantially the same employing enterprise as the em-**
12 **ployer owing the debt.**

13 **(2) For the purposes of subsection (1) of this section, factors the director may consider**
14 **when determining if an employer is a successor employer operating substantially the same**
15 **employing enterprise include, but are not limited to, whether the employer:**

16 **(a) Operates from the same physical location.**

17 **(b) Provides the same services or manufactures the same products.**

18 **(c) Has one or more of the same:**

19 **(A) Corporate directors or officers.**

20 **(B) Owners, including but not limited to shareholders of a corporation or of a profes-**
21 **sional corporation, members or shareholders of a cooperative, members of a limited liability**
22 **company, partners of a partnership, or general partners or limited partners of a limited**
23 **partnership.**

24 **(3) A successor employing unit or successor employer against which an amount is as-**
25 **essed under this section may appeal the assessment by filing with the director an applica-**
26 **tion for hearing under ORS 657.683 within 20 days after the mailing of a written notice of the**
27 **assessment to the last-known address of the successor employing unit or successor employer**
28 **of record with the director.**

29 **SECTION 3. ORS 657.683 is amended to read:**

30 **657.683. (1) An application for hearing under ORS 657.679 and 657.681 and section 2 of this**

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 **2005 Act** shall be in writing and shall state that such determination or assessment of the Director
 2 of the Employment Department or authorized representative is unjust or incorrect and that the
 3 employing unit requests a hearing [*thereon*]. The application shall set forth the objections of the
 4 employing unit to the determination or assessment and the amount of contributions, if any, which
 5 the applicant admits to be due to the Employment Department. An application for a hearing to re-
 6 view an assessment made under ORS 657.681 (4) [*which*] **that** was accompanied by a demand for a
 7 bond or deposit shall not be valid unless [*such*] **the** bond or deposit is filed with the application in
 8 a form acceptable to the director or authorized representative.

9 (2) If a valid application for hearing is filed within the time provided by ORS 657.679 and 657.681
 10 **and section 2 of this 2005 Act**, an administrative law judge shall review the determination or as-
 11 sessment and if requested by the employing unit shall grant a hearing unless a hearing has previ-
 12 ously been afforded the employing unit on the same grounds as set forth in the application. The
 13 administrative law judge shall give notice of the time and place of the hearing to the director or
 14 authorized representative and shall also give notice to the employing unit by mail directed to the
 15 last-known address of the employing unit of record with the director.

16 (3) Hearings under ORS 657.679 and 657.681 **and section 2 of this 2005 Act** shall be conducted
 17 in accordance with this chapter. The filing of an application for hearing with respect to a disputed
 18 assessment shall not affect the right of the director or authorized representative to perfect any liens
 19 provided by this chapter.

20 (4) All testimony at any hearing held under ORS 657.679 and 657.681 **and section 2 of this 2005**
 21 **Act** shall be recorded but need not be transcribed unless a petition for judicial review from the
 22 decision of the administrative law judge is filed in the manner and within the time prescribed. At
 23 any hearing held as provided in ORS 657.679 and 657.681 **and section 2 of this 2005 Act**, the de-
 24 termination or assessment of the director or authorized representative shall be prima facie correct
 25 and the burden shall be upon the protesting employing unit to prove that it is incorrect. Thereafter
 26 the administrative law judge shall enter the findings of fact and decision, either affirming, modifying,
 27 or setting aside the determination or assessment of the director or authorized representative and in
 28 the case of an assessment, the administrative law judge may increase or decrease the amount of the
 29 assessment. The employing unit and the director shall be promptly notified of the decision of the
 30 administrative law judge.

31 (5) A decision of the administrative law judge shall become final on the date of notification or
 32 the mailing thereof to the director and to the employing unit at the last-known address of record
 33 with the director unless within the time specified in ORS 183.480 (2) the administrative law judge
 34 on the administrative law judge's own motion reviews the same and issues an amended decision in
 35 which case the amended decision becomes the final decision.

36 **SECTION 4.** ORS 657.875 is amended to read:

37 657.875. The period within which an interested party may request a hearing or file with the
 38 Employment Appeals Board an application for review as provided in ORS 657.266 to 657.269, 657.270,
 39 657.471, 657.485, 657.679[,] and 657.681 **and section 2 of this 2005 Act** may be extended, upon a
 40 showing of good cause therefor, a reasonable time under the circumstances of each particular case.