

Senate Bill 690

Sponsored by Senators METSGER, COURTNEY

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**.

Permits payment of supplemental unemployment benefits to dislocated workers whose unemployment is due to release from military duty related to deployment of Oregon National Guard or military reserves in Afghanistan or Iraq. Extends eligibility of dislocated workers for supplemental benefits beyond June 30, 2005.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to supplemental unemployment benefits for dislocated workers; amending ORS 657.337 and
3 657.340.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 657.337 is amended to read:

6 657.337. (1) The state's economic stability is often threatened when workers are being displaced
7 from the workforce and the workers and their families face hardship and serious social and health
8 problems.

9 (2) The policy of the state is to promote workforce development by providing eligible dislocated
10 workers with unemployment compensation and related benefits while they are receiving professional
11 technical training so that they can continue to care for their families and obtain employment.

12 (3) The Employment Department and the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce
13 Development will implement the necessary strategies, systems and structures that will provide con-
14 solidated, streamlined delivery of these services to dislocated workers.

15 (4) It is the policy of the state to encourage the movement of workers into higher wage jobs.

16 (5) It is the policy of the state to make the best use of currently existing service delivery vehi-
17 cles, training programs and assessment devices to provide services to eligible dislocated workers.

18 (6) In order to assist eligible dislocated workers to continue or complete professional technical
19 training, individuals who meet the requirements of ORS 657.335 to 657.360 are eligible for supple-
20 mental benefits as provided in ORS 657.340 [*through June 30, 2005*].

21 **SECTION 2.** ORS 657.340 is amended to read:

22 657.340. (1) Dislocated workers approved for professional technical training [*shall*] **may** not be
23 denied unemployment insurance benefits solely because they are attending professional technical
24 training, nor shall such individual be denied benefits by reason of leaving work to enter such
25 training if the work left was part-time or temporary or paid less than 80 percent of the individual's
26 average weekly wage during the base year.

27 (2) Notwithstanding provisions of this chapter relating to availability for work, actively seeking
28 work or refusal to accept suitable work, dislocated workers approved for professional technical
29 training and otherwise eligible for benefits [*shall not be*] **are not** ineligible for such benefits or
30 waiting week credit because of attendance in professional technical training.

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 (3)(a) Eligible dislocated workers who file valid unemployment compensation claims, upon ex-
 2 haustion of regular benefits, are eligible, subject to the availability of funds, for supplemental ben-
 3 efits from 1 to 26 times the individual's most recent weekly benefit amount based upon the amount
 4 needed to continue or complete approved professional technical training.

5 (b) Supplemental benefits shall be paid under the same terms and conditions as regular benefits
 6 under this chapter, except that the Director of the Employment Department may extend the benefit
 7 year of an individual attending an approved professional technical training program a sufficient
 8 number of weeks to allow the individual to complete the training program.

9 (c) Supplemental benefits under ORS 657.335 to 657.360 may be paid only when the eligible dis-
 10 located worker is not eligible to receive extended benefits as provided in ORS 657.321 to 657.329 or
 11 additional benefits as provided in ORS 657.331 to 657.334.

12 (d) Supplemental benefits may be paid only to eligible dislocated workers whose unemployment,
 13 as determined by the director[,]:

14 **(A)** Is substantially due to the lack of employment opportunities in the workers' local labor
 15 market resulting from:

16 [(A)] **(i)** High energy costs;

17 [(B)] **(ii)** Extended drought conditions and the attendant economic conditions;

18 [(C)] **(iii)** Secondary effects of foreign trade; or

19 [(D)] **(iv)** A shift of production to another state or territory of the United States; **or**

20 **(B) Is due to the workers' release from military duty in the Oregon National Guard or**
 21 **the military reserves when that military duty was related to the deployment of the Oregon**
 22 **National Guard or the military reserves in Afghanistan or Iraq.**

23 (4) The receipt of supplemental benefits is conditioned upon the individual's demonstrating sat-
 24 isfactory progress and attendance in professional technical training.

25