

CHAPTER 18

AN ACT

SB 1544

Relating to an increase in the maximum number of weeks for which an unemployed individual participating in an apprenticeship program may be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits; creating new provisions; amending ORS 657.357; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. ORS 657.357 is amended to read: 657.357. Notwithstanding *[the requirements or restrictions of]* ORS 657.335 to 657.360 or the provisions of this chapter relating to availability for work, actively seeking work or refusal to accept suitable work, an unemployed individual participating in an apprenticeship program who is otherwise eligible for unemployment insurance benefits:

(1) **Is** *[Shall]* not *[be]* ineligible for *[such]* the benefits or waiting week credit solely by reason of attending a program of related instruction established in accordance with ORS 660.157 *[when such]* **if the individual's attendance:**

(a) Does not exceed *[five]* **10** weeks during the benefit year of the individual; and *[when such attendance]*

(b) Is required as a condition of the individual's continued employment; and

(2) Shall be considered to be in a program of instruction with the approval of the Director of the Employment Department if the individual:

[(1)] (a) Provides the director with a copy of *[that]* **the** individual's effective apprenticeship agreement approved in accordance with the requirements of ORS 660.002 to 660.210; and

[(2)] (b) Establishes to the satisfaction of the director that the training is scheduled by a work-related entity *[other than the claimant]* **and not by the individual claiming the benefits.**

SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 657.357 by section 1 of this 2016 Act apply to weeks, as defined in ORS 657.010, that begin on or after the effective date of this 2016 Act.

SECTION 3. This 2016 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2016 Act takes effect on its passage.

Approved by the Governor March 3, 2016
 Filed in the office of Secretary of State March 3, 2016
 Effective date March 3, 2016