

EMPLOYMENT APPEALS BOARD DECISION
2022-EAB-1044

Reversed & Remanded

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On July 8, 2022, the Oregon Employment Department (the Department) served notice of an administrative decision denying claimant benefits from June 19 through September 3, 2022 (weeks 25-22 through 35-22), concluding that claimant was likely to return to work for the employer, and claimant's wages and/or hours with other employers were not sufficient to entitle claimant to benefits (decision # 160402). Claimant filed a timely request for hearing. On September 15, 2022, ALJ Frank conducted a hearing, and on September 22, 2022 issued Order No. 22-UI-203390, reversing decision # 160402 by concluding that claimant did not have reasonable assurance of returning to work for an educational employer, and therefore was eligible for benefits for weeks 25-22 through 35-22. On October 12, 2022, the Department filed an application for review with the Employment Appeals Board (EAB).

WRITTEN ARGUMENT: EAB considered the Department's written argument when reaching this decision.

FINDINGS OF FACT: (1) On March 22, 2022, claimant filed an initial claim for unemployment insurance benefits. Claimant's base year was October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021, and her weekly benefit amount was \$733.

(2) During her base year, claimant worked as an elementary school teacher for Crook County School District, an educational employer. Claimant did not earn any wages from a non-educational employer during her base year.

(3) During the 2021-2022 academic year, claimant earned more than her weekly benefit amount during at least one week.

(4) On February 25, 2022, claimant quit working for the employer. The Department investigated the work separation and subsequently issued an administrative decision concluding that claimant voluntarily quit work with good cause.

(5) The employer's recess period between the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 academic years was from June 15 through September 2, 2022 (weeks 25-22 through 35-22).

(6) Claimant claimed benefits for the weeks from June 19 through August 6, 2022 (weeks 25-22 through 31-22).

CONCLUSIONS AND REASONS: Order No. 22-UI-203390 is set aside and this matter remanded for further development of the record.

ORS 657.167(1) and (2) prohibit benefits based upon services for an educational institution performed in an instructional, research or principal administrative capacity from being paid "for any week of unemployment commencing during the period between two successive academic years or" terms, "if such individual performs such services in the first of such academic years or terms and if there is a contract or a reasonable assurance that such individual will perform services in any such capacity for any institution in the second of such academic years or terms." In sum, the conditions that must be met for the between-terms school recess denial to apply to claimant are these: (1) the weeks claimed must commence during a period between two academic terms; (2) claimant must not have been "unemployed" during the term prior to the recess period at issue; and (3) there is reasonable assurance of work during the term following the recess period at issue.

OAR 471-030-0075 (April 29, 2018) states:

(1) The following must be present before determining whether an individual has a contract or reasonable assurance:

(a) There must be an offer of employment, which can be written, oral, or implied. The offer must be made by an individual with authority to offer employment.

(b) The offer of employment during the ensuing academic year or term must be in the same or similar capacity as the service performed during the prior academic year or term. The term 'same or similar capacity' refers to the type of services provided: i.e., a 'professional' capacity as provided by ORS 657.167 or a 'nonprofessional' capacity as provided by ORS 657.221.

(c) The economic conditions of the offer may not be considerably less in the following academic year, term or remainder of a term than the employment in the first year or term. The term 'considerably less' means the employee will not earn at least 90% of the amount, excluding employer paid benefits, than the employee earned in the first academic year or term, or in a corresponding term if the employee does not regularly work successive terms (i.e. the employee works spring term each year).

(2) An individual has a contract to perform services during the ensuing academic year, term, or remainder of a term when there is an enforceable, non-contingent agreement that provides for compensation for an entire academic year or on an annual basis.

(3) An individual has reasonable assurance to perform services during the ensuing academic year, term, or remainder of a term when:

(a) The agreement contains no contingencies within the employer's control. Contingencies within the employer's control include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (A) Course Programming;
- (B) Decisions on how to allocate available funding;
- (C) Final course offerings;
- (D) Program changes;
- (E) Facility availability; and
- (F) Offers that allow an employer to retract at their discretion.

(b) The totality of circumstances shows it is highly probable there is a job available for the individual in the following academic year or term. Factors to determine the totality of the circumstances include, but are not limited to:

- (A) Funding, including appropriations;
- (B) Enrollment;
- (C) The nature of the course (required or options, taught regularly or sporadically);
- (D) The employee's seniority;
- (E) Budgeting and assignment practices of the school;
- (F) The number of offers made in relation to the number of potential teaching assignments; and
- (G) The period of student registration.

(c) It is highly probable any contingencies not within the employer's control in the offer of employment will be met.

(4) An individual who voluntarily leaves work for good cause, as defined under OAR 471-030-0038, does not have reasonable assurance with the employer from whom the person left work.

The order under review concluded that “claimant did not have reasonable assurance of working for an educational employer during the 2022-2023 academic year in the same or similar capacity as that in which she worked during the academic year preceding the summer recess period at issue,” and therefore was eligible for the benefits she claimed during the recess period. Order No. 22-UI-203390 at 5. The record as developed does not support this conclusion.

Claimant quit working for the employer on February 25, 2022 for a reason that the Department later determined was for good cause. Therefore, under OAR 471-030-0075(4), claimant did not have reasonable assurance with that particular employer. However, under ORS 657.176(1), an offer of educational employment with *any institution*—not just the employer that the individual worked for prior to the break period—may constitute reasonable assurance.

At hearing, the Department’s witness testified that claimant “found new employment in the same field in the state of Texas.” Audio Record at 11:40. No further inquiry was made on that point. If claimant had received an offer of employment from an educational institution in Texas that was set to begin after the 2022 summer break, she may have had reasonable assurance. However, further inquiry is needed to confirm that she received such an offer, as well as to determine whether the offer satisfied the requirements of OAR 471-030-0075 such that it would constitute reasonable assurance under ORS 657.167. On remand, the ALJ should develop the record accordingly.

ORS 657.270 requires the ALJ to give all parties a reasonable opportunity for a fair hearing. That obligation necessarily requires the ALJ to ensure that the record developed at the hearing shows a full and fair inquiry into the facts necessary for consideration of all issues properly before the ALJ in a case. ORS 657.270(3); *see accord Dennis v. Employment Division*, 302 Or 160, 728 P2d 12 (1986). Because further development of the record is necessary for a determination of whether claimant had reasonable assurance of returning to work for an educational employer after the break period, Order No. 22-UI-203390 is reversed, and this matter is remanded.

DECISION: Order No. 22-UI-203390 is set aside, and this matter remanded for further proceedings consistent with this order.

D. Hettle and A. Steger-Bentz;
S. Serres, not participating.

DATE of Service: December 20, 2022

NOTE: The failure of any party to appear at the hearing on remand will not reinstate Order No. 22-UI-203390 or return this matter to EAB. Only a timely application for review of the subsequent order will cause this matter to return to EAB.

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Understanding Your Employment Appeals Board Decision

English

Attention – This decision affects your unemployment benefits. If you do not understand this decision, contact the Employment Appeals Board immediately. If you do not agree with this decision, you may file a Petition for Judicial Review with the Oregon Court of Appeals following the instructions written at the end of the decision.

Simplified Chinese

注意 – 本判決會影響您的失業救濟金。如果您不明白本判決，請立即聯繫就業上訴委員會。如果您不同意此判決，您可以按照該判決結尾所寫的說明，向俄勒岡州上訴法院提出司法複審申請。

Traditional Chinese

注意 – 本判決會影響您的失業救濟金。如果您不明白本判決，請立即聯繫就業上訴委員會。如果您不同意此判決，您可以按照該判決結尾所寫的說明，向俄勒岡州上訴法院提出司法複審申請。

Tagalog

Paalala – Nakakaapekto ang desisyong ito sa iyong mga benepisyo sa pagkawala ng trabaho. Kung hindi mo naiintindihan ang desisyong ito, makipag-ugnayan kaagad sa Lupon ng mga Apela sa Trabaho (Employment Appeals Board). Kung hindi ka sumasang-ayon sa desisyong ito, maaari kang maghain ng isang Petisyon sa Pagsusuri ng Hukuman (Petition for Judicial Review) sa Hukuman sa Paghahabol (Court of Appeals) ng Oregon na sinusunod ang mga tagubilin na nakasulat sa dulo ng desisyon.

Vietnamese

Chú ý - Quyết định này ảnh hưởng đến trợ cấp thất nghiệp của quý vị. Nếu quý vị không hiểu quyết định này, hãy liên lạc với Ban Kháng Cáo Việc Làm ngay lập tức. Nếu quý vị không đồng ý với quyết định này, quý vị có thể nộp Đơn Xin Tái Xét Tư Pháp với Tòa Kháng Cáo Oregon theo các hướng dẫn được viết ra ở cuối quyết định này.

Spanish

Atención – Esta decisión afecta sus beneficios de desempleo. Si no entiende esta decisión, comuníquese inmediatamente con la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo. Si no está de acuerdo con esta decisión, puede presentar una Aplicación de Revisión Judicial ante el Tribunal de Apelaciones de Oregon siguiendo las instrucciones escritas al final de la decisión.

Russian

Внимание – Данное решение влияет на ваше пособие по безработице. Если решение Вам непонятно – немедленно обратитесь в Апелляционный Комитет по Трудоустройству. Если Вы не согласны с принятым решением, вы можете подать Ходатайство о Пересмотре Судебного Решения в Апелляционный Суд штата Орегон, следуя инструкциям, описанным в конце решения.

Khmer

ចំណុចសំខាន់ – សេចក្តីសម្រេចនេះមានផលប៉ះពាល់ដល់អត្ថប្រយោជន៍គ្មានការងារធ្វើរបស់លោកអ្នក។ ប្រសិនបើលោកអ្នកមិនយល់អំពីសេចក្តីសម្រេចនេះ សូមទាក់ទងគណៈកម្មការឧទ្ធរណ៍ការងារភ្លាមៗ។ ប្រសិនបើលោកអ្នកមិនយល់ស្របចំពោះសេចក្តីសម្រេចនេះទេ លោកអ្នកអាចដាក់ពាក្យប្តឹងសុំឲ្យមានការពិនិត្យរឿងក្តីឡើងវិញជាមួយតុលាការឧទ្ធរណ៍រដ្ឋ Oregon ដោយអនុវត្តតាមសេចក្តីណែនាំដែលសរសេរនៅខាងចុងបញ្ចប់នៃសេចក្តីសម្រេចនេះ។

Laotian

ເອົາໃຈໃສ່ – ຄຳຕັດສິນນີ້ມີຜົນກະທົບຕໍ່ກັບເງິນຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອການຫວ່າງງານຂອງທ່ານ. ຖ້າທ່ານບໍ່ເຂົ້າໃຈຄຳຕັດສິນນີ້, ກະລຸນາຕິດຕໍ່ຫາຄະນະກຳມະການອຸທອນການຈ້າງງານໃນທັນທີ. ຖ້າທ່ານບໍ່ເຫັນດີນຳຄຳຕັດສິນນີ້, ທ່ານສາມາດຍື່ນຄຳຮ້ອງຂໍການທົບທວນຄຳຕັດສິນນຳສານອຸທອນລັດ Oregon ໄດ້ໂດຍປະຕິບັດຕາມຄຳແນະນຳທີ່ບອກໄວ້ຢູ່ຕອນທ້າຍຂອງຄຳຕັດສິນນີ້.

Arabic

هذا القرار قد يؤثر على منحة البطالة الخاصة بك، إذا لم تفهم هذا القرار، إتصل بمجلس منازعات العمل فوراً، و إذا كنت لا توافق على هذا القرار، يمكنك رفع شكوى للمراجعة القانونية بمحكمة الإستئناف بأوريغون و ذلك بإتباع الإرشادات المدرجة أسفل القرار.

Farsi

توجه - این حکم بر مزایای بیکاری شما تاثیر می گذارد. اگر با این تصمیم موافق نیستید، بلافاصله با هیأت فرجام خواهی استخدام تماس بگیرید. اگر از این حکم رضایت ندارید، می‌توانید با استفاده از دستور العمل موجود در پایان آن، از دادگاه تجدید نظر اورگان درخواست تجدید نظر کنید.

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