

SHORT TITLE: Labor; authorizing release of certain information to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for use in the default prevention or collection efforts of certain student loans; emergency.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 45th Legislature (1995)

SENATE BILL NO. 90

By: Long (Ed)

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to labor; amending 40 O.S. 1991, Section 4-508, as last amended by Section 8, Chapter 195, O.S.L. 1994 (40 O.S. Supp. 1994, Section 4-508), which relates to disclosure of certain confidential information; providing exception; authorizing release of certain information to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education; stating use of information; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 40 O.S. 1991, Section 4-508, as last amended by Section 8, Chapter 195, O.S.L. 1994 (40 O.S. Supp. 1994, Section 4-508), is amended to read as follows:

Section 4-508. INFORMATION TO BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL - DISCLOSURE. A. Except as otherwise provided by law, information obtained from any employing unit or individual pursuant to the administration of the Employment Security Act of 1980, and determinations as to the benefit rights of any individual shall be held confidential and shall not be disclosed or be open to public inspection in any manner revealing the individual's or employing unit's identity. Any claimant or employer or such person as ~~he~~ the claimant or employer may by writing authorize as ~~his~~ their agent shall be supplied with information from the records of the

Commission, to the extent necessary for the proper presentation of ~~his~~ their claim or complaint in any proceeding under the Employment Security Act of 1980, Section 1-101 et seq. of this title, with respect thereto.

B. Upon receipt of written request by any employer who maintains a Supplemental Unemployment Benefit (SUB) Plan, the Commission or its designated representative may release to such employer information regarding weekly benefit amounts paid its workers during a specified temporary layoff period, provided such Supplemental Unemployment Benefit (SUB) Plan requires benefit payment information before Supplemental Unemployment Benefits can be paid to such workers. Any information disclosed under this provision shall be utilized solely for the purpose outlined herein and shall be held strictly confidential by the employer.

C. The provisions of this section shall not prevent the Commission from disclosing the following information and no liability whatsoever, civil or criminal, shall attach to any member of the Commission or any employee thereof for any error or omission in the disclosure of such information:

1. The delivery to taxpayer or claimant a copy of any report or other paper filed by ~~him~~ the taxpayer or claimant pursuant to the provision of ~~the act~~ Section 1-101 et seq. of this title;

2. The disclosure of information to any person for a purpose as authorized by the taxpayer or claimant pursuant to a waiver of confidentiality. The waiver shall be in writing and shall be notarized;

3. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce may have access to data obtained pursuant to the Oklahoma Employment Security Act of 1980 pursuant to rules promulgated by the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission. The information obtained shall be held confidential by the Department and any of its agents and shall not be disclosed or be open to public inspection. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce,

however, may release aggregated data, either by industry or county, provided that such aggregation meets disclosure requirements of the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission;

4. The publication of statistics so classified as to prevent the identification of a particular report and the items thereof;

5. The disclosing of information or evidence to the Attorney General or any district attorney when said information or evidence is to be used by said officials or other parties to the proceedings to prosecute or defend allegations of violations of the act. ~~Said~~ The information disclosed to the Attorney General or any district attorney shall be kept confidential by them and not be disclosed except when presented to a court in a prosecution of a violation of the act, and a violation by the Attorney General or district attorney by otherwise releasing the information shall be a felony;

6. The furnishing, at the discretion of the Commission, of any information disclosed by said records or files to any official person or body of this state, any other state or of the United States who is concerned with the administration of assessment of any similar tax in this state, any other state or the United States;

7. ~~The~~ Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 12 of this subsection, the furnishing of information to other state agencies for the limited purpose of aiding in the collection of debts owed by individuals to said requesting agencies;

8. The release to officials, employees, and agents of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation of information required for use in federally mandated regional transportation planning, which is performed as a part of their official duties;

9. The release to officials, employees and agents of the State Treasurer's office of information required to verify or evaluate the effectiveness of the Oklahoma Small Business Linked Deposit Program on job creation;

10. The release to officials, employees, and agents of the Attorney General or the State Insurance Fund for use in investigation of workers' compensation fraud; ~~or~~

11. The release to employees of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation or release to employees of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control for use in criminal investigations and the location of missing persons or fugitives from justice; or

12. The release to officials, employees and agents of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education of information required for use in the default prevention efforts or collection of defaulted student loans guaranteed by the Oklahoma Guaranteed Student Loan Program. Any information disclosed under this provision shall be utilized solely for the purpose outlined herein and shall be held strictly confidential by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

D. Should any of the disclosures provided for in this section require more than casual or incidental staff time, the Commission may charge the cost of such staff time to the party requesting the information.

E. It is further provided that the provisions of this section shall be strictly interpreted and shall not be construed as permitting the disclosure of any other information contained in the records and files of the Commission.

SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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