

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	7 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Berger, Edwards C., Esquivel, Holvey, Rosenbaum, Smith P., Schaufler
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Theresa Van Winkle, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/16, 3/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows telecommunicators who are members of the Public Employees Retirement System and have 25 years or more of creditable service in the system as a telecommunicator to retire before normal retirement age. Establishes that the earliest retirement age for telecommunicators who are members of the Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan is 55 years old or the age at which the telecommunicator acquires 25 years of retirement credit as a telecommunicator, whichever is first.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Working conditions of telecommunicators
- Number of telecommunicators who qualify for retirement
- Affects of measure in regards to recruiting new 911 operators due to veterans leaving for early retirement
- Whether measure is identical to current statute relating to early retirement for police and firefighters
- Telecommunicators who choose early retirement take a reduction in benefits

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Removes the provision that establishes a reduced cost-of-living adjustment for telecommunicators who retire before age of 55 years, resulting in a zero fiscal impact on employer rates.

BACKGROUND: There are an estimated 1,000 telecommunicators who have been certified by the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) and centers throughout Oregon. Approximately two-thirds of telecommunicators are members of the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS).

HB 2401-A allows qualified telecommunicators to retire early at a reduced rate which is the actuarial equivalent of the service retirement allowance (as established in statute relating to how the allowance is calculated) at normal retirement age. The measure also establishes the earliest retirement age for telecommunicators who are a member of the Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan (OPSRP) at age of 55 years, but allows telecommunicators to retire at an earlier age if they have accumulated 25 years of service as a telecommunicator.

A telecommunicator is defined in statute as a person employed as an emergency telephone worker (official duties are receiving information through a 9-1-1 emergency reporting system, and relaying such information to public or private safety agencies or dispatching emergency equipment or personnel in response to such information) or as a public safety dispatcher (primary duties are receiving, processing, and transmitting public safety information received through a 9-1-1 emergency reporting system).

4/5/2007 11:21:00 AM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.