

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass the B-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Avakian, Beyer, Gordly, Monroe, Prozanski
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Anna Braun, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Provides an early retirement exception under the Public Employee Retirement System for 911 operators.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Double-dipping
- Cost neutrality
- Number of people affected

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: There are according 1000 telecommunicators who have been certified by the Department for Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) and centers throughout Oregon. Approximately two-thirds of telecommunicators are members of the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS).

Current law requires a PERS member to work until age 55 to be eligible for retirement benefits. There is an exception for police officers and firefighters who may retire at age 50. HB 2401 B allows a telecommunicator (a 911 operator) to become eligible for PERS after 25 years of service. However, no cost of living allowance will be received until the member becomes 55 years old.

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).