

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	7 - 0 - 2
Yeas:	Bonamici, Flores, Gelser, Kotek, Maurer, Richardson, Greenlick
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Bruun, Cannon
Prepared By:	Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/20 (policy sub), 3/01 (policy sub), 3/09 (full)

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows a person who is retired under the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) to be employed full-time by a public employer as a nurse or nurse instructor without loss of retirement benefits.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Nurse and nurse instructor shortage
- PERS retirement guidelines and current exemptions
- Current limitations on re-employment and the 1,040 hour rule
- Public institutions included in the bill
- Examples of new strategies to address the nursing shortage
- Potential impact of “double dipping”
- Possible crowd-out for the younger workforce

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Oregon’s Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) enables public employers to provide employees with retirement benefits. PERS has administered benefits since 1946, providing service and disability retirement income, death benefits, and retiree health insurance. The Oregon Legislature establishes PERS policy, including benefit levels, membership requirements, and retirement payment options, and the Public Employees Retirement Board implements and administers the policy choices made by the Legislature. Currently, ORS 238.082 outlines conditions and limitations of active membership for the reemployment of retired members.

HB 2593 adds nurse or nurse instructors to the current list of exemptions.