

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Avakian, Beyer, Gordly, Prozanski
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Monroe
Prepared By:	Anna Braun, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows police officer members of the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) to receive credit for prior service as a public safety officer with another state or political subdivision of another state. Allows retired PERS members to work for the Legislative Assembly or the Oregon State Police during legislative sessions without loss of retirement benefits. Allows members who have reestablished active membership in PERS to be able to re-activate inactive accounts. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Effect on retired police officers who work at the Capitol
- Recruitment of state troopers

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Exempts service as a staff member of the Legislative Assembly or service by the Oregon State Police for the legislative session from limitations of employment imposed by PERS. Allows members who have reestablished active membership in PERS to be able to re-activate inactive accounts.

BACKGROUND: There are currently a handful of groups who can purchase retirement credit for the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) due to service performed prior to working for a PERS employer. Examples include public school teachers who worked in one or more states prior to working in an Oregon school district, and some members of the United States Armed Services who served prior to their employment. HB 2619-A adds public safety officers to the list of those who can purchase retirement credit.

In addition, HB 2619-A exempts the hours worked by staff members for the legislative session, including the Oregon State Police from the hours allowed for retired PERS members. The general rule is that a retired public employee receiving PERS payments may work no more than 1,040 hours per calendar year to continue eligibility for full benefits. However, there are many exceptions, such as police departments of fewer than 15,000 people. Exceptions are given based on the difficulty to fill the positions.

HB 2619-A also allows former PERS members who have been rehired to activate their inactive accounts. The current rule is that a former employee may access an account after it has terminated but a rehired employee has no method to activate an account. HB 2619-A allows a rehired PERS member to reactivate an inactive account.