

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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Action: Do Pass and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means

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: 5/23, 5/30

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Allows a nurse or an employee of the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training who is retired under Public Employees Retirement System to be employed full-time by a public employer as a nursing instructor or department instructor without loss of retirement benefits. Establishes a sunset of January 2, 2016.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Ability for the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) to keep experienced instructors on staff
- Potential for employees to retire early and collect pension benefits in addition to earning a salary
- Current benefit levels for retirees who return to instructor positions
- Whether retirees who become DPSST trainers will be part of the current collective bargaining unit

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Approximately 870 public employers participate in Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), covering about 95 percent of state, school, and local government employees. 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. SB 342 A adds registered nurses who are employed as full time nursing instructors by public employers and instructors working for Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to this list.