

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

Action: Without Recommendation as to Passage and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote: 8 - 1 - 1
Yeas: Barton, Cameron, Edwards C., Esquivel, Matthews, Thatcher, Witt, Schaufler
Nays: Kennemer
Exc.: Holvey
Prepared By: Theresa Van Winkle, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 4/10, 4/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Classifies physicians and nurses employed by Oregon State Hospital as police officers for purposes of benefits under the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). Applies to all service in the qualifying position, whether rendered before, on or after the measure's operative date, if the PERS member is serving in position on the operative date. Establishes an operative date of July 1, 2011.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Working conditions of Oregon State Hospital
- Fiscal impact to Department of Human Services
- Applicability of the bill to proposed new hospital in Junction City

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: A Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) member who is employed in a qualifying position as a "police officer" or firefighter is qualified to purchase what is known as Police Officer and Firefighter (P&F) Units. A P&F PERS member who is less than the age of 60 can elect to purchase up to eight units through payroll deductions. A lump-sum purchase must be made within 60 days before the members' date of retirement, and before their 65th birthday. The P&F unit income account is provided to the member in payments made over a minimum of five years unless payments begin after the age of 60. Under the five-year payment scenario, each P&F unit provides a \$20 monthly benefit (\$10 from the unit income account and \$10 from the employer); if the member pays for eight units, the monthly benefit is \$160 per month.

Employee groups who are currently classified as "police officers" under PERS statute include Department of Corrections guards and parole and probation officers, Oregon State Police troopers, Oregon Liquor Control Commission employees classified as enforcement officers, sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, police chiefs and police officers, Port of Portland airport police, livestock police officers, Oregon State Lottery enforcement officers, and certain types of employees who work with juveniles for either the Department of Corrections or the Oregon Youth Authority.