

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued**

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
<b>Vote:</b>	10 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Barton, Fagan, Holvey, Kennemer, Matthews, Thatcher, Thompson, Weidner, Witt, Doherty
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Jan Nordlund, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	4/15

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Allows police officer and firefighter members of Public Employees Retirement System killed in the line of duty to be considered vested under pension program of Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Narrow application to police and firefighters
- Whether other occupations should receive same consideration

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

**BACKGROUND:** Under current law, a member of the Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan (OPSRP) becomes vested in the pension program when the member completes at least 600 hours of service in each of five calendar years or when an active member reaches the normal retirement age for the member. If a vested member dies before reaching retirement age, the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) Board must pay the death benefit to the spouse or any other person who is constitutionally required to be treated as a spouse. The death benefit will be for the life of the spouse and will be the actuarial equivalent of half of the pension that would otherwise have been paid to the deceased member.

House Bill 3487 establishes that an OPSRP member is to be considered vested for all purposes under the pension program if, at the time of death, they meet the following criteria:

- Served as a police officer or firefighter who was an active OPSRP member;
- Killed in the line of duty; and
- Had not otherwise vested in the pension program.

PERS statutes contain a broad definition of police officer, including but not limited to certain employees at the Department of Corrections, certain parole and probation officers, airport police, livestock police, employees of Department of Public Safety Standards and Training who are not clerical or secretarial, certain Department of Justice investigators, Oregon Lottery enforcement officers, and certain employees at youth correction/detention facilities.