

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carriers – House: Rep. Jenson
Rep. Matthews
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Hansell

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and as Printed A-Engrossed

Vote: 25 – 0 – 1

House

Yeas: Barker, Buckley, Frederick, Freeman, Hanna, Huffman, Jenson, Komp, McLane, Nathanson, Read, Smith, Tomei, Williamson

Nays:

Exc: Richardson

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Devlin, Edwards, Girod, Hansell, Johnson, Monroe, Steiner Hayward, Thomsen, Whitsett, Winters

Nays:

Exc:

Prepared By: John F. Borden, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: May 31, 2013

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows any deceased member of the Public Employees Retirement System killed in the course and scope of the member's employment, as certified by the employer, to be considered vested under pension program of Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan (OPSRP). Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Difference between HB 3487 and HB 3243-B
- Purpose of amendment
- Measure would apply prospectively to any non-vested OPSRP member killed in the course and scope of their employment as certified to PERS by their employer.
- Minimal fiscal impact

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Broadens to measure from just police officer and firefighter members to include any deceased member of PERS - OPSRP. The amendment also has the employer of the member certify to PERS that the member was killed in the course and scope of the member's employment. Lastly, at the time of death the member is not to be otherwise vested in OPSRP. The amendment would apply the provisions prospectively on or after the effective date of the measure.

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.