

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	8 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Barnhart, Berger, Dembrow, Hicks, Holvey, Jenson, Kennemer, Garrett
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Hoyle
Prepared By:	Erin Seiler, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	6/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows judge member of Public Employees Retirement System to designate more than one beneficiary to receive retirement benefits after judge's death. Changes "person" to "persons." Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reason for measure
- Reason why judges were omitted from original legislation that allowed members of Public Employees Retirement System to designate more than one beneficiary to receive retirement after death
- Ability to designate personal representative of estate as beneficiary
- Benefits received by designated beneficiary

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Since 1945, Oregon has provided a retirement plan for public employees. It is currently called the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). PERS separates members into benefit "tiers" based on their hire date: Tier One, Tier Two and the Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan (OPSRP). Members of PERS who are judges are subject to specific provisions in state law at ORS Chapter 238. ORS 238.565, pertaining to the beneficiary of a judge, however, references only the singular "beneficiary," which has been interpreted strictly, to mean what it says: a judge may only name one beneficiary.

Senate Bill 771-A clarifies that a judge may designate more than one beneficiary to receive his or her PERS benefits after death.