

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Greenlick
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Bates

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure as Amended and as Printed B-Engrossed

Vote: 23 – 1 – 2

House

Yeas: Barker, Buckley, Frederick, Huffman, Komp, McLane, Nathanson, Read,
Richardson, Smith, Tomei, Williamson

Nays: Freeman

Exc: Hanna, Jenson

Senate

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

Nays:

Exc:

Prepared By: Kim To, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: June 21, 2013

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows local government governing body elect to participate in benefit plan offered by Public Employees’ Benefit Board (PEBB) or Oregon Educators Benefit Board. Requires Governor to appoint two voting members to PEBB or OEBC for each local government electing to participate in plan offered by board and two additional members for each 25,000 eligible employees. Specifies that the decision of a local government to participate in a benefit plan offered by OEBC and PEBB is a permissive subject of collective bargaining. Stipulates certain conditions under which local governments offering a benefit plan though OEBC and PEBB may provide alternative group health and welfare insurance plans to eligible employees.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fiscal impact

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: (1) Provides that members of a collective bargaining unit that represents police or firefighters are not included in the definition of “eligible employee”; (2) Removes the appointing power of the executive director for the Public Employees’ Benefit Board from the Director of the Oregon Health Authority; (3) Specifies that the decision of a local government to participate in a benefit plan offered by OEBC and PEBB is a permissive subject of collective bargaining; and (4) Stipulates certain conditions under which local governments offering a benefit plan though OEBC and PEBB may provide alternative group health and welfare insurance plans to eligible employees.

BACKGROUND: The Public Employees Benefit Board (PEBB) is a labor-management board whose purpose is to provide high quality and affordable benefits to state employees. The Oregon Educators Benefit Board (OEBC) provides a similar function for Oregon’s school districts. Because of the large membership, both boards are able to negotiate lower rates with carriers for their participants.

Oregon cities, counties and special districts each negotiate their own benefits with carriers. House Bill 2279-A allows these local government entities to participate in benefit plans offered by PEBB and OEBC, which proponents assert will help manage rising health care costs.