

Senate Bill 685

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT, CONSUMER AND SMALL BUSINESS PROTECTION

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Modifies definition of "employment relations" for purposes of collective bargaining related to terms of disability, death or retirement system of certain police officers and firefighters.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to definition of "employment relations" for purposes of collective bargaining of certain po-
3 lice and firefighters benefits; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 243.650.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 243.650 is amended to read:

6 243.650. As used in ORS 243.650 to 243.782, unless the context requires otherwise:

7 (1) "Appropriate bargaining unit" means the unit designated by the Employment Relations Board
8 or voluntarily recognized by the public employer to be appropriate for collective bargaining. How-
9 ever, an appropriate bargaining unit may not include both academically licensed and unlicensed or
10 nonacademically licensed school employees. Academically licensed units may include but are not
11 limited to teachers, nurses, counselors, therapists, psychologists, child development specialists and
12 similar positions. This limitation does not apply to any bargaining unit certified or recognized prior
13 to June 6, 1995, or to any school district with fewer than 50 employees.

14 (2) "Board" means the Employment Relations Board.

15 (3) "Certification" means official recognition by the board that a labor organization is the ex-
16 clusive representative for all of the employees in the appropriate bargaining unit.

17 (4) "Collective bargaining" means the performance of the mutual obligation of a public employer
18 and the representative of its employees to meet at reasonable times and confer in good faith with
19 respect to employment relations for the purpose of negotiations concerning mandatory subjects of
20 bargaining, to meet and confer in good faith in accordance with law with respect to any dispute
21 concerning the interpretation or application of a collective bargaining agreement, and to execute
22 written contracts incorporating agreements that have been reached on behalf of the public employer
23 and the employees in the bargaining unit covered by such negotiations. The obligation to meet and
24 negotiate does not compel either party to agree to a proposal or require the making of a concession.
25 This subsection may not be construed to prohibit a public employer and a certified or recognized
26 representative of its employees from discussing or executing written agreements regarding matters
27 other than mandatory subjects of bargaining that are not prohibited by law as long as there is mu-
28 tual agreement of the parties to discuss these matters, which are permissive subjects of bargaining.

29 (5) "Compulsory arbitration" means the procedure whereby parties involved in a labor dispute
30 are required by law to submit their differences to a third party for a final and binding decision.

31 (6) "Confidential employee" means one who assists and acts in a confidential capacity to a per-

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 son who formulates, determines and effectuates management policies in the area of collective bar-
2 gaining.

3 (7)(a) "Employment relations" includes, but is not limited to, matters concerning direct or indi-
4 rect monetary benefits, hours, vacations, sick leave, grievance procedures and other conditions of
5 employment.

6 (b) "Employment relations" does not include subjects determined to be permissive, nonmanda-
7 tory subjects of bargaining by the Employment Relations Board prior to June 6, 1995.

8 (c) After June 6, 1995, "employment relations" does not include subjects that the Employment
9 Relations Board determines to have a greater impact on management's prerogative than on employee
10 wages, hours, or other terms and conditions of employment.

11 (d) "Employment relations" does not include subjects that have an insubstantial or de minimis
12 effect on public employee wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment.

13 **(e) "Employment relations" does not include actions regarding the terms of a disability,**
14 **death or retirement system allowed under ORS 237.620 or 656.027 (6) by a political subdivision**
15 **of this state, the voters of that subdivision or the administrative body administering the**
16 **system.**

17 [(e)] (f) For school district bargaining, "employment relations" excludes class size, the school
18 or educational calendar, standards of performance or criteria for evaluation of teachers, the school
19 curriculum, reasonable dress, grooming and at-work personal conduct requirements respecting
20 smoking, gum chewing and similar matters of personal conduct, the standards and procedures for
21 student discipline, the time between student classes, the selection, agendas and decisions of 21st
22 Century Schools Councils established under ORS 329.704, requirements for expressing milk under
23 ORS 653.077, and any other subject proposed that is permissive under paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of
24 this subsection.

25 [(f)] (g) For employee bargaining involving employees covered by ORS 243.736, "employment re-
26 lations" includes safety issues that have an impact on the on-the-job safety of the employees or
27 staffing levels that have a significant impact on the on-the-job safety of the employees.

28 [(g)] (h) For all other employee bargaining except school district bargaining and except as pro-
29 vided in paragraph [(f)] (g) of this subsection, "employment relations" excludes staffing levels and
30 safety issues (except those staffing levels and safety issues that have a direct and substantial effect
31 on the on-the-job safety of public employees), scheduling of services provided to the public, deter-
32 mination of the minimum qualifications necessary for any position, criteria for evaluation or per-
33 formance appraisal, assignment of duties, workload when the effect on duties is insubstantial,
34 reasonable dress, grooming, and at-work personal conduct requirements respecting smoking, gum
35 chewing, and similar matters of personal conduct at work, and any other subject proposed that is
36 permissive under paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of this subsection.

37 (8) "Exclusive representative" means the labor organization that, as a result of certification by
38 the board or recognition by the employer, has the right to be the collective bargaining agent of all
39 employees in an appropriate bargaining unit.

40 (9) "Fact-finding" means identification of the major issues in a particular labor dispute by one
41 or more impartial individuals who review the positions of the parties, resolve factual differences and
42 make recommendations for settlement of the dispute.

43 (10) "Fair-share agreement" means an agreement between the public employer and the recog-
44 nized or certified bargaining representative of public employees whereby employees who are not
45 members of the employee organization are required to make an in-lieu-of-dues payment to an em-

1 ployee organization except as provided in ORS 243.666. Upon the filing with the board of a petition
2 by 30 percent or more of the employees in an appropriate bargaining unit covered by such union
3 security agreement declaring they desire that the agreement be rescinded, the board shall take a
4 secret ballot of the employees in the unit and certify the results thereof to the recognized or certi-
5 fied bargaining representative and to the public employer. Unless a majority of the votes cast in an
6 election favor the union security agreement, the board shall certify deauthorization of the agree-
7 ment. A petition for deauthorization of a union security agreement must be filed not more than 90
8 calendar days after the collective bargaining agreement is executed. Only one such election may be
9 conducted in any appropriate bargaining unit during the term of a collective bargaining agreement
10 between a public employer and the recognized or certified bargaining representative.

11 (11) "Final offer" means the proposed contract language and cost summary submitted to the
12 mediator within seven days of the declaration of impasse.

13 (12) "Labor dispute" means any controversy concerning employment relations or concerning the
14 association or representation of persons in negotiating, fixing, maintaining, changing, or seeking to
15 arrange terms or conditions of employment relations, regardless of whether the disputants stand in
16 the proximate relation of employer and employee.

17 (13) "Labor organization" means any organization that has as one of its purposes representing
18 employees in their employment relations with public employers.

19 (14) "Last best offer package" means the offer exchanged by parties not less than 14 days prior
20 to the date scheduled for an interest arbitration hearing.

21 (15) "Legislative body" means the Legislative Assembly, the city council, the county commission
22 and any other board or commission empowered to levy taxes.

23 (16) "Managerial employee" means an employee of the State of Oregon who possesses authority
24 to formulate and carry out management decisions or who represents management's interest by tak-
25 ing or effectively recommending discretionary actions that control or implement employer policy,
26 and who has discretion in the performance of these management responsibilities beyond the routine
27 discharge of duties. A "managerial employee" need not act in a supervisory capacity in relation to
28 other employees. Notwithstanding this subsection, "managerial employee" does not include faculty
29 members at a community college, college or university.

30 (17) "Mediation" means assistance by an impartial third party in reconciling a labor dispute
31 between the public employer and the exclusive representative regarding employment relations.

32 (18) "Payment-in-lieu-of-dues" means an assessment to defray the cost for services by the exclu-
33 sive representative in negotiations and contract administration of all persons in an appropriate
34 bargaining unit who are not members of the organization serving as exclusive representative of the
35 employees. The payment must be equivalent to regular union dues and assessments, if any, or must
36 be an amount agreed upon by the public employer and the exclusive representative of the employees.

37 (19) "Public employee" means an employee of a public employer but does not include elected
38 officials, persons appointed to serve on boards or commissions, incarcerated persons working under
39 section 41, Article I of the Oregon Constitution, or persons who are confidential employees, super-
40 visory employees or managerial employees.

41 (20) "Public employer" means the State of Oregon, and the following political subdivisions:
42 Cities, counties, community colleges, school districts, special districts, mass transit districts, metro-
43 politan service districts, public service corporations or municipal corporations and public and
44 quasi-public corporations.

45 (21) "Public employer representative" includes any individual or individuals specifically desig-

1 nated by the public employer to act in its interests in all matters dealing with employee represen-
2 tation, collective bargaining and related issues.

3 (22) "Strike" means a public employee's refusal in concerted action with others to report for
4 duty, or his or her willful absence from his or her position, or his or her stoppage of work, or his
5 or her absence in whole or in part from the full, faithful or proper performance of his or her duties
6 of employment, for the purpose of inducing, influencing or coercing a change in the conditions,
7 compensation, rights, privileges or obligations of public employment; however, nothing shall limit
8 or impair the right of any public employee to lawfully express or communicate a complaint or
9 opinion on any matter related to the conditions of employment.

10 (23) "Supervisory employee" means any individual having authority in the interest of the em-
11 ployer to hire, transfer, suspend, lay off, recall, promote, discharge, assign, reward or discipline
12 other employees, or responsibly to direct them, or to adjust their grievances, or effectively to re-
13 commend such action, if in connection therewith, the exercise of the authority is not of a merely
14 routine or clerical nature but requires the use of independent judgment. Failure to assert supervi-
15 sory status in any Employment Relations Board proceeding or in negotiations for any collective
16 bargaining agreement does not thereafter prevent assertion of supervisory status in any subsequent
17 board proceeding or contract negotiation. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, a nurse,
18 charge nurse or similar nursing position may not be deemed to be supervisory unless that position
19 has traditionally been classified as supervisory.

20 (24) "Unfair labor practice" means the commission of an act designated an unfair labor practice
21 in ORS 243.672.

22 (25) "Voluntary arbitration" means the procedure whereby parties involved in a labor dispute
23 mutually agree to submit their differences to a third party for a final and binding decision.

24 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 243.650 by section 1 of this 2013 Act apply to**
25 **actions regarding a disability, death or retirement system occurring before, on or after the**
26 **effective date of this 2013 Act.**

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