

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued**SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:** None**Action:****Vote:**

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Cheyenne Ross, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 3/31, 4/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows public employers to compensate deployed employees. Stipulates amount shall not exceed base salary on date of deployment. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- No need for identical Senate Bill 531
- Permissive tool to assist public employers in recruiting and retaining qualified personnel
- Enabling public employers to compete with private sector for qualified personnel
- Importance of military personnel to public safety agencies in particular
- Importance of servicemembers' deployments

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Oregon Revised Statute 408.240 requires public employers to treat employees who are also members of the National Guard or Reserve, as "absent on leave" during periods of deployment, when they are not able to perform their duties. The public employer is prohibited from paying the employee-service member while they are deployed, and the servicemember's position and employer-sponsored benefits must be maintained.

House Bill 2763 lifts the prohibition against compensation, permitting public employers to offer compensation while service members are deployed, at their discretion.

House Committee: 7-0

House Floor: 59-0-1