

**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Workforce**

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 03/09/15

**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments And Requesting Referral To Ways And Means.  
(Printed A-Engrossed.)

**Meeting Dates:** 02/18, 03/09

**Vote:**

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Knopp, Rosenbaum, Thatcher

**Prepared By:** Matthew Germer, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Defines “comparable” for the purpose of establishing base pay for Department of State Police telecommunicators as the base pay for telecommunicators employed by the five Oregon public safety answering points with the most employees. Applies to arbitration hearings commenced on or after effective date. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Structure of bargaining for telecommunicator wages
- Retention issues

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Applies to arbitration hearings commenced on or after effective date. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Public Employees Collective Bargaining Act (PECBA) established a collective bargaining process for Oregon’s public employers and unions representing public employees. While most bargaining units are allowed to strike, some bargaining units are prohibited from striking and must resolve disputes through binding interest arbitration. Arbitrators are required to base their findings and opinions on specified criteria, including the comparison of overall compensation of employees performing similar services with employees in comparable communities. “Comparable” is defined differently for cities, counties, and the State of Oregon. For employees of the State of Oregon, overall compensation is compared to employees of other states. Legislation passed in 2009 defined “comparable” specifically for Oregon State Police troopers as the base pay for city police officers employed by the five most populous Oregon cities.

Senate Bill 128-A defines “comparable” for the purpose of establishing the base pay of Department of State Police dispatchers as the base pay for dispatchers employed by the five Oregon public safety answering points with the most employees, presently those are located in the cities of Portland and Salem and the counties of Washington, Clackamas, and Lane.