

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Workforce

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/15/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 04/15

Vote:

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

Prepared By: Matthew Germer, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Changes definition of “local government” for purpose of public employee benefit plans.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Intergovernmental entites, such as Councils of Government (COGs), lack access to PEBB
- Ability of intergovernmental agencies to withdraw from PEBB

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Public Employees’ Benefit Board (PEBB) designs, contracts and administers a program of benefits for the state as the employer of state employees. The benefits include medical and dental coverage; life, accident, disability and long-term care insurance; and flexible spending accounts. PEBB also offers health care insurance options for retirees not yet eligible for Medicare and individuals in other participating groups. PEBB’s total membership is approximately 127,000 individuals. Currently, under Oregon law, local governments such as cities, counties or special districts can enroll in benefits plans offered by PEBB.

Senate Bill 681 changes the definition of “local government” for purpose of public employee benefits plans to include inter-governmental entities.