

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Workforce

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 06/01/15

Action: Do Pass The A-Eng Bill.

Meeting Dates: 05/20, 06/01

Vote:

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

Prepared By: Matthew Germer, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits retired Tier One and Tier Two member of Public Employees Retirement System to work for school district or education service district as a teacher of career and technical education for unlimited hours without loss of retirement benefits. Defines teacher of career and technical education. Sunsets June 30, 2018. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Past reduction of career and technical education programs
- Need for and difficulty in finding more career and technical education instructors
- Models for students to receive credit for career and technical education courses

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) enables public employers to provide their employees with retirement benefits. State government, public schools, community colleges, and many local governments (cities, counties, and special districts) participate in PERS. There are approximately 900 public employers currently participating in PERS, covering about 95 percent of all public employees in Oregon.

If a retiree wishes to re-enter the workforce, their PERS benefit could be affected based on the plan they retired under, who their employer is, and how many hours they work per year. Any retiree who works for a private-sector or non-PERS covered employer may work unlimited hours without any impact on their level of retirement benefit. In general, a Tier One or Tier Two retired member working for a participating public employer can continue to receive retirement benefits as long as the period or periods of employment with one or more participating public employers do not total more than 1,039 hours in a calendar year. Retirement benefit payments will cease for a retiree under the Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan (OPSRP) if they are employed in a qualifying position by a participating employer or work a total of more than 600 hours in a calendar year for one or more participating employers.

House Bill 3058-A allows a retiree to work an unlimited number of hours as a career and technical education teacher without loss of retirement benefits. The measure applies to retirees under Tier One and Tier Two; it does not apply to retirees under the more recent OPSRP.