

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

Action Date: 02/16/16

Action: Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Meeting Dates: 02/03, 02/16

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Baertschiger Jr, Boquist, Edwards, Hass, Riley

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows county, by ordinance or resolution, to exempt first \$250,000 of assessed value of homesteads of surviving spouses of a fire service professional, police officer or reserve officer killed in the line of duty. Requires surviving spouse to remain unmarried in order to qualify for exemption. Applies exemption to all ad valorem property taxes imposed by all taxing jurisdictions on the homestead. Defines homestead as real or personal property that is an owner-occupied primary residence and tax lot upon which the dwelling is located. Requires surviving spouse seeking exemption to file application with county assessor by required date and on form prescribed by Department of Revenue. Requires specific information to be included on application. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Definition of fire service professional as it relates to potential exemption discussed in measure
- Exemption would be available to unmarried surviving spouse of an officer or a member of a public or private fire protection agency
- Exemption available to surviving spouse of police officer or fire service professional killed in the line of duty
- In previous 20 years, roughly 25 police and 30 fire service professionals have been killed in the line of duty.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Added unmarried surviving spouse of reserve officer to homesteads qualifying for property tax exemption made available by measure.

BACKGROUND:

The measure as amended allows but does not require counties to provide an exemption. As the measure is permissive, no direct revenue impact exists.

According to the Oregon fallen police and firefighter memorials, since 1970 about 70 police officers and 55 fire service professionals have died in the line of duty. Since 1995, the respective numbers are about 25 police officers and 30 fire service professionals.

Depending upon location of homestead, the average loss in tax revenue that would result from exempting \$250,000 in assessed value ranges from \$2,700 to \$3,900.