

HB 4115 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Business and Labor

Action Date: 02/14/18

Action: Without recommendation as to passage, with amendments. Refer to Rules, then to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 11-0-0-0

Yeas: 11 - Barreto, Boles, Bynum, Doherty, Evans, Fahey, Heard, Holvey, Kennemer, Piluso, Wilson

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows statewide elected officials to choose to join or remain in the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) if they are already an active or retired member, or to choose to have benefits contributed to the deferred compensation plan, or to decline both plans. Applies to statewide elected officials who take office on or after the effective date of this Act. Allows judges to decline to become or remain a judge member of PERS and elect to become or remain a member of the state deferred compensation plan, or to decline both plans. Applies to judges who take office on or after the effective date of this Act. Makes no changes to existing options legislators have regarding retirement benefits. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Input from the Oregon Judicial Department
- Real or perceived conflict or interest of judges who rule on reforms to PERS
- Effect of amendment provides choice
- Constitutionally prohibited from reducing the compensation of a judge

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND:

Under current statutes, a statewide elected official is treated the same as other public employees for purposes of eligibility under the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). There is not an option for public employees to decline membership in PERS. Legislators are allowed to decline participation in PERS for their legislative service. Judges enter the judge member program when they take office.