



## **SB 187: Provides that judicial marshal qualifies as police officer under PERS**

Testimony for Senate Committee on Workforce – 3.14.2019

Tax Fairness Oregon has observed, studied, and presented testimony related to PERS for three years. Although we have learned a great deal, fully understanding PERS often feels like wading through mud! We have a few lessons to offer that we hope will guide your thinking.

Lesson #1 Oregon's public pension plan is one of the most complex structures in the nation. It also has some of the most generous benefits, particularly for Tiers I and II.

Lesson #2 Complexity can lead to legislative decisions that seem prudent, but in the end, only lead to more complex problems.

Lesson #3 PERS currently has complicated and costly issues to solve; a sizable portion of the costs are direct results of past legislative decisions that seemed prudent at the time.

Taking these lessons into consideration, we strongly urge you follow the recommendations of the PERS senior policy director.

**Until the legislature has solved the current funding status of PERS, it is not prudent to be adding members to the highest cost classification.**