

Dear Work Committee Members:

I was honored to be hired by the Oregon State Police in 1978 and proudly served at the Roseburg Patrol Office until my retirement in 2004.

Fall of 2015, I was recruited by retired law enforcement officers, who I had worked with during my career that were working part-time for the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. The duties include Court Security, Prisoner Transport and Civil Process Service. With constant looming budget constraints for Emergency Service Agencies, these duties would be the responsibility of full-time officers or potentially eliminated. The availability of seasoned, retired officers allows the full-time staff to focus on responding to the increasing demands of the citizens they serve. The Sheriff's Office already struggles to provide adequate coverage for Douglas County, without all of the aforementioned duties that are currently provided by part-time retirees.

It is unfortunate that the current PERS rules limit these retirees to an hourly cap, which, if exceeded can change the complexion of the retirement that they earned in good faith. Douglas County is one of six counties in the State that is held to this earning cap, solely because our County exceeds the population cap set by a prior Legislative Assembly. Some would say that we are "Double-Dipping", which I will argue is very offensive, considering the fact that any earned income is heavily taxed by State and Federal Government.

I strongly encourage this committee to move SB 934 forward with your recommendations, allowing Emergency Service Agencies to affordably utilize these highly skilled retirees to any extent necessary.

These valuable personnel that desire to work beyond the out-dated earning caps will be lost to other employers.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,  
Monte K. Smith / Retired OSP / Douglas County Sheriff's Deputy

Note: Please use discretion with your personal information in written testimony (i.e., do not add personal information you do not want the public to see). All meeting materials, including your name and any personal information contained in the submitted documents, are posted to the Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS) and are accessible to all major search engines, including Google, Bing, and Yahoo.

Sent from my iPad