

HB 2786 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Business and Labor

Action Date: 04/08/19

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 6-5-0-0

Yeas: 6 - Barker, Boles, Clem, Doherty, Evans, Holvey

Nays: 5 - Barreto, Bonham, Boshart Davis, Bynum, Fahey

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 4/3, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides that deputy district attorneys qualify as police officers under Public Employees Retirement System.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Higher benefits and lower retirement age for those designated as police and fire employees
- High turnover among deputy district attorneys
- Job duties of deputy district attorneys
- Prospective application of measure
- Impact to county budgets
- History of funding for district attorney and deputy district attorneys

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Removes district attorneys from provisions of measure.

BACKGROUND:

There are two types of classifications for all primary Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) plans: General Service, and Police and Fire (P&F). Examples of qualified P&F positions include certain Department of Corrections employees, Oregon State Police officers, local government police officers, parole and probation officers, the state and deputy state fire marshal, and persons employed by cities, counties, or districts whose duties involve firefighting. All other qualifying positions are classified as General Service. Employees classified as P&F under PERS statutes can retire at an earlier age and have a higher benefit factor used in calculating their retirement benefits. These enhanced benefits raise the costs of benefits members earn while in that status by four to five percent of payroll. Those costs increase further if existing General Service members move into P&F status.

House Bill 2786-A reclassifies deputy district attorneys as “police officers” under PERS statutes. The P&F benefits apply only for service performed by the employee on or after the measure's effective date.