

HB 2196 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Carrier: Rep. Evans

Action Date: 04/09/19
Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)
Vote: 8-0-0-0
Yeas: 8 - Evans, Findley, Lewis, Meek, Neron, Wallan, Wilde, Zika
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Designates employees of the Oregon Military Department whose primary duty is fighting structural, aircraft, wildland, or other fires eligible for participation in Public Employees Retirement System (PERS).

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Technical correction that reflects existing practice
- Several retirees would be forced to repay benefits unless measure is enacted
- Firefighters within Oregon Military Department perform same duties as other PERS-eligible firefighters
- No impact on liability of PERS system

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replace original measure.

BACKGROUND:

Under current law, certain public employees whose primary duties are fighting fires qualify as members of the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). These include the State Fire Marshal, the chief deputy fire marshal, and deputy state fire marshals, as well as employees of the Oregon Department of Forestry certified by the State Forester as professional wildland firefighters and whose duties include the abatement of uncontrolled fires.

House Bill 2196-A clarifies that employees of the Oregon Military Department whose primary duty is fighting structural, aircraft, wildland, or other fires are eligible for participation in PERS.