

HB 2054 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Specifies that district attorneys and deputy district attorneys qualify as police officers under the Public Employees Retirement System.

NOTE - measure has a subsequent referral to the Committee on Ways and Means

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) provides retirement benefits for employees of state agencies, as well as employees of hundreds of local governments. A five-member board oversees PERS, and appoints an executive director to manage the agency's daily operations, including the management of benefits for over 375,000 active, inactive, and retired members and their beneficiaries. PERS is considered a hybrid pension plan, in that it includes a defined benefit plan and a defined contribution plan; upon retirement, PERS members receive both a life pension (defined benefit) and the balance of their individual account (defined contribution). The program is funded primarily by employer contributions; members contribute six percent of their monthly salary to their PERS retirement, with up to two and one-half percent used to offset the cost of member pensions, with the remainder accruing to the member's individual account.

Police Officer and Firefighter (P&F) units are an additional benefit to Tier One and Tier Two PERS members who serve in a qualified positions as defined in ORS 238. Such positions are generally related to law enforcement, parole and probation, investigators, corrections officers, school police officers, and some residential care facilities workers, House Bill 2054 adds district attorneys and deputy district attorneys to the list of vocations that qualify for P&F PERS benefits.