



February 28, 2023

TO: Chair Grayber, members of the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

FROM: Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Affairs Manager, Michael Burdick

RE: AOC neutral on HB 2054

Dear Chair Grayber and Members of the Committee,

I offer this testimony on behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) which has represented Oregon's county governments since 1906.

AOC has adopted a neutral position on HB 2054.

In deliberating on what position AOC should take, some AOC members expressed support for the bill and noted how the duties of district attorneys (DAs) and their deputies (DDAs) are similar in important ways to those of the public employees who already enjoy PERS P&F membership, and how these similarities are pertinent to the issues the PERS P&F program was created to address. Other AOC members expressed support because the increased retirement benefits could make it easier to recruit qualified DAs and DDAs, which is something many counties have been struggling with.

Of the AOC members who opposed the bill, most expressed concerns about the fiscal impact counties would face as a result of the measure, which they found burdensome. Others expressed concerns about the financial status of the PERS system, which they believed should be addressed before any expansion of PERS is contemplated.

Best,

Michael Burdick