



# OREGON STATE FIRE FIGHTERS COUNCIL

International Association of Fire Fighters  
AFL-CIO CLC

Senate Committee on Labor and Business  
Chair Senator Kathleen Taylor  
Vice Chair Daniel Bonham  
Committee Members

April 24, 2032

Chair Taylor,

For the record my name is Karl Koenig, President of the Oregon State Fire Fighters Council (OSFFC) a labor organization representing over 3,700 fire fighters, paramedics, wildland, and fire prevention professionals throughout the State of Oregon.

Our message of a workforce crisis has been repeated in this Committee and throughout the building this session. HB 2283 is a series of technical fixes, unintended consequences of previous legislature's and protecting a significant part of being a public employee in Oregon, our retirement. The Oregon State Fire Fighters Council is in favor of HB 2283.

HB 2283 speaks to the ability of Judges to remove themselves from the system to counting PMFLI as wages. One of the technical fixes around how procedurally to direct a members retirement in the event of death of the member or estate are clarified in the bill. Perhaps one of the fixes that police and fire members is the length of service or break in service "fix" that keeps a qualified police and fire member in the system as a police officer or fire fighter. If passed this would remove the 60-month continuous service as a police officer or fire fighter rule that penalized or reset the 60 month "clock to remain a P & F member at retirement. We have found as our OPSRP member's age they have the same orthopedic and overall medical issues that are not occupationally related and as a result it effectively extending the career of a police officer or fire fighter.



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The inclusion in this bill to make the contributions into PMFLI for premium costs PERS compensable. As a participant in the initial rule making process this was not part of the final ending point and never contemplated exclusion or contribution as wages but the current ORS and definitions it was considered not salary eligible even though it was paid by the member and the employer. We are thankful that the agency was able to work with the legislature to rectify this unintended consequence of Paid Family Medical Leave Insurance.

HB 2283 further defined the 600-hour rule for membership eligibility into the PERS System, which cleans up ambiguous language that wrongfully kept eligible members from starting their membership benefits.

HB 2283 is comprehensive in its recommendations to the Legislature and address our procedural and rules regarding multiple issues as many agency bill often seek to accomplish.

The Oregon State Fire Fighters Council thank all the stakeholders in bringing this bill and its numerous fixes with collaboration and a clear end point leaving our retirement system better as a result.

Regards,

*Karl Koenig* s/s

Karl Koenig  
President  
Oregon State Fire Fighters Council