

Senate Bill 1569

Sponsored by Senators GORSEK, MANNING JR, Representative SMITH G; Senator GELSER BLOUIN, Representatives EVANS, GRAYBER, MUNOZ, NELSON, NOSSE, RUIZ, WISE (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act makes some groups of workers police officers for PERS. (Flesch Readability Score: 80.3).

Provides that certain members of the Public Employees Retirement System qualify as police officers under the system.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to public employee retirement; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 238.005.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. ORS 238.005 is amended to read:

238.005. For purposes of this chapter:

(1) "Active member" means a member who is presently employed by a participating public employer in a qualifying position and who has completed the six-month period of service required by ORS 238.015.

(2) "Annuity" means payments for life derived from contributions made by a member as provided in this chapter.

(3) "Board" means the Public Employees Retirement Board.

(4) "Calendar year" means 12 calendar months commencing on January 1 and ending on December 31 following.

(5) "Continuous service" means service not interrupted for more than five years, except that such continuous service shall be computed without regard to interruptions in the case of:

(a) An employee who had returned to the service of the employer as of January 1, 1945, and who remained in that employment until having established membership in the Public Employees Retirement System.

(b) An employee who was in the armed services on January 1, 1945, and returned to the service of the employer within one year of the date of being otherwise than dishonorably discharged and remained in that employment until having established membership in the Public Employees Retirement System.

(6) "Creditable service" means any period of time during which an active member is being paid a salary by a participating public employer and for which benefits under this chapter are funded by employer contributions and earnings on the fund. For purposes of computing years of "creditable service," full months and major fractions of a month shall be considered to be one-twelfth of a year and shall be added to all full years. "Creditable service" includes all retirement credit received by a member.

(7) "Earliest service retirement age" means the age attained by a member when the member

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 could first make application for retirement under the provisions of ORS 238.280.

2 (8) "Employee" means a person who performs services for a participating public employer, in-
3 cluding persons considered employees of a participating public employer under 26 U.S.C. 3121(d)(2),
4 as in effect on December 31, 2019, and public officers. "Employee" does not include:

5 (a) Persons engaged as independent contractors.

6 (b) Seasonal, emergency or casual workers whose periods of employment with any public em-
7 ployer or public employers do not total 600 hours in any calendar year.

8 (c) Persons provided sheltered employment or made-work by a public employer in an employment
9 or industries program maintained for the benefit of such persons.

10 (d) Persons employed and paid from federal funds received under a federal program intended
11 primarily to alleviate unemployment. However, any such person shall be considered an "employee"
12 if not otherwise excluded by paragraphs (a) to (c) of this subsection and the public employer elects
13 to have the person so considered by an irrevocable written notice to the board.

14 (e) Persons who are employees of a railroad, as defined in ORS 824.020, and who, as such em-
15 ployees, are included in a retirement plan under federal railroad retirement statutes. This paragraph
16 shall be deemed to have been in effect since the inception of the system.

17 (f) Persons employed in positions classified as post-doctoral scholar positions by a public uni-
18 versity listed in ORS 352.002, or by the Oregon Health and Science University, under ORS 350.370.

19 (9) "Final average salary" means whichever of the following is greater:

20 (a) The average salary per calendar year paid by one or more participating public employers to
21 an employee who is an active member of the system in three of the calendar years of membership
22 before the effective date of retirement of the employee, in which three years the employee was paid
23 the highest salary. The three calendar years in which the employee was paid the largest total salary
24 may include calendar years in which the employee was employed for less than a full calendar year.
25 If the number of calendar years of active membership before the effective date of retirement of the
26 employee is three or fewer, the final average salary for the employee is the average salary per cal-
27 endar year paid by one or more participating public employers to the employee in all of those years,
28 without regard to whether the employee was employed for the full calendar year.

29 (b) One-third of the total salary paid by a participating public employer to an employee who is
30 an active member of the system in the last 36 calendar months of active membership before the ef-
31 fective date of retirement of the employee.

32 (10) "Firefighter" does not include a volunteer firefighter, but does include:

33 (a) The State Fire Marshal, the chief deputy fire marshal and deputy state fire marshals;

34 (b) An employee of the State Fire Marshal whose primary duties include fire investigation, fire
35 prevention, fire safety, fire control or fire suppression;

36 (c) An employee of the State Forestry Department who is certified by the State Forester as a
37 professional wildland firefighter and whose primary duties include the abatement of uncontrolled
38 fires as described in ORS 477.064; and

39 (d) An employee of the Oregon Military Department whose primary duties include fighting
40 structural, aircraft, wildland or other fires.

41 (11) "Fiscal year" means 12 calendar months commencing on July 1 and ending on June 30 fol-
42 lowing.

43 (12) "Fund" means the Public Employees Retirement Fund.

44 (13) "Inactive member" means a member who is not employed in a qualifying position, whose
45 membership has not been terminated in the manner described by ORS 238.095 and who is not retired

1 for service or disability.

2 (14) "Institution of higher education" means a public university listed in ORS 352.002, the
3 Oregon Health and Science University and a community college, as defined in ORS 341.005.

4 (15) "Major fraction of a month" means a month:

5 (a) In which an active member is employed for more than one-half of the total calendar days in
6 that calendar month; and

7 (b) In which the member is being paid a salary by a participating public employer for hours
8 worked in that calendar month.

9 (16) "Member" means a person who has established membership in the system and whose mem-
10 bership has not been terminated as described in ORS 238.095. "Member" includes active, inactive
11 and retired members.

12 (17) "Member account" means the regular account and the variable account.

13 (18) "Normal retirement age" means:

14 (a) For a person who establishes membership in the system before January 1, 1996, as described
15 in ORS 238.430, 55 years of age if the employee retires at that age as a police officer or firefighter
16 or 58 years of age if the employee retires at that age as other than a police officer or firefighter.

17 (b) For a person who establishes membership in the system on or after January 1, 1996, as de-
18 scribed in ORS 238.430, 55 years of age if the employee retires at that age as a police officer or
19 firefighter or 60 years of age if the employee retires at that age as other than a police officer or
20 firefighter.

21 (19) "Pension" means annual payments for life derived from contributions by one or more public
22 employers.

23 (20) "Police officer" includes:

24 (a) Employees of institutions defined in ORS 421.005 as Department of Corrections institutions
25 whose duties, as assigned by the Director of the Department of Corrections, include the custody of
26 persons committed to the custody of or transferred to the Department of Corrections and employees
27 of the Department of Corrections who were classified as police officers on or before July 27, 1989,
28 whether or not such classification was authorized by law.

29 (b) Employees of the Department of State Police who are classified as police officers[, *forensic*
30 *scientists or evidence technicians*] by the Superintendent of State Police.

31 (c) Employees of the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission who are classified as regulatory
32 specialists by the administrator of the commission.

33 (d) Sheriffs and those deputy sheriffs or other employees of a sheriff whose duties, as classified
34 by the sheriff, are the regular duties of police officers or corrections officers.

35 (e) Police chiefs and police personnel of a city who are classified as police officers by the
36 council or other governing body of the city.

37 (f) Police officers who are commissioned by a university under ORS 352.121 or 353.125 and who
38 are classified as police officers by the university.

39 (g) Parole and probation officers employed by the Department of Corrections, parole and pro-
40 bation officers who are transferred to county employment under ORS 423.549 and adult parole and
41 probation officers, as defined in ORS 181A.355, who are classified as police officers for the purposes
42 of this chapter by the county governing body. If a county classifies adult parole and probation offi-
43 cers as police officers for the purposes of this chapter, and the employees so classified are repres-
44 ented by a labor organization, any proposal by the county to change that classification or to cease
45 to classify adult parole and probation officers as police officers for the purposes of this chapter is

1 a mandatory subject of bargaining.

2 (h) Police officers appointed under ORS 276.021 or 276.023.

3 (i) Employees of the Port of Portland who are classified as airport police by the Board of Com-
4 missioners of the Port of Portland.

5 (j) Employees of the State Department of Agriculture who are classified as livestock police of-
6 ficers by the Director of Agriculture.

7 (k) Employees of the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training who are classified by
8 the department as other than secretarial or clerical personnel.

9 (L) **Assistant attorneys general and** investigators of the Criminal Justice Division of the De-
10 partment of Justice.

11 (m) Corrections officers as defined in ORS 181A.355.

12 (n) Employees of the Oregon State Lottery Commission who are classified by the Director of the
13 Oregon State Lottery as enforcement agents pursuant to ORS 461.110.

14 (o) The Director of the Department of Corrections.

15 (p) An employee who for seven consecutive years has been classified as a police officer as de-
16 fined by this section, and who is employed or transferred by the Department of Corrections to fill
17 a position designated by the Director of the Department of Corrections as being eligible for police
18 officer status.

19 (q) An employee of the Department of Corrections classified as a police officer on or prior to
20 July 27, 1989, whether or not that classification was authorized by law, as long as the employee
21 remains in the position held on July 27, 1989. The initial classification of an employee under a sys-
22 tem implemented pursuant to ORS 240.190 does not affect police officer status.

23 (r) Employees of a school district who are appointed and duly sworn members of a law
24 enforcement agency of the district as provided in ORS 332.531 or otherwise employed full-time as
25 police officers commissioned by the district.

26 (s) Employees at youth correction facilities and juvenile detention facilities under ORS 419A.050,
27 419A.052 and 420.005 to 420.915 who are required to hold valid Oregon teaching licenses and who
28 have supervisory, control or teaching responsibilities over juveniles committed to the custody of the
29 Department of Corrections or the Oregon Youth Authority.

30 (t) Employees at youth correction facilities as defined in ORS 420.005 whose primary job de-
31 scription involves the custody, control, treatment, investigation or supervision of juveniles placed
32 in such facilities.

33 (u) Employees of the Oregon Youth Authority who are classified as juvenile parole and pro-
34 bation officers.

35 (v) **Juvenile custody services specialists and juvenile court counselors of a county juve-**
36 **nile department who are charged with and primarily perform the duties described in ORS**
37 **419A.012 and 419A.016.**

38 [(v)] (w) Employees of the Department of Human Services who are prohibited from striking un-
39 der ORS 243.726 and whose duties include the care of residents of residential facilities, as defined
40 in ORS 443.400, that house individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

41 [(w)] (x) Employees appointed as judicial marshals under ORS 1.177 who are certified under ORS
42 181A.540.

43 [(x)] (y) Certified parole and probation officers employed by the State Board of Parole and
44 Post-Prison Supervision.

45 [(y)] (z) District attorneys and deputy district attorneys.

1 (aa) Employees of the Department of State Police, a county sheriff, a municipal police
2 department or a police department established by a university under ORS 352.121 or 353.125
3 who are classified as forensic scientists or evidence technicians by the employer.

4 (bb) Employees of the Department of State Police, a county sheriff, a municipal police
5 department or a police department established by a university under ORS 352.121 or 353.125
6 who are responsible for obtaining, classifying and verifying fingerprints using electronic or
7 manual methods.

8 (cc) Certified medicolegal death investigators employed or appointed by a county sheriff,
9 a municipal police department, a county health department or a police department estab-
10 lished by a university under ORS 352.121 or 353.125.

11 (dd) Force protection officers and leaders employed by the Oregon Military Department
12 whose duties include patrolling and protecting state and federal property, personnel and es-
13 sential military operational resources on an Oregon Air National Guard installation.

14 (21) "Prior service credit" means credit provided under ORS 238.442 or under ORS 238.225 (2)
15 to (6) (1999 Edition).

16 (22) "Public employer" means the state, one of its agencies or any city, county, municipal or
17 public corporation, political subdivision of the state or instrumentality thereof, or an agency created
18 by one or more such governmental organizations to provide governmental services. For purposes of
19 this chapter, such agency created by one or more governmental organizations is a governmental
20 instrumentality and a legal entity with power to enter into contracts, hold property and sue and be
21 sued.

22 (23) "Qualifying position" means one or more jobs with one or more participating public em-
23 ployers in which an employee performs 600 or more hours of service in a full calendar year, or
24 would perform 600 or more hours of service if the employee were employed for the full calendar
25 year, excluding any service in a job for which a participating public employer does not provide
26 benefits under this chapter pursuant to an application made under ORS 238.035.

27 (24) "Regular account" means the account established for each active and inactive member un-
28 der ORS 238.250.

29 (25) "Retired member" means a member who is retired for service or disability.

30 (26) "Retirement credit" means a period of time that is treated as creditable service for the
31 purposes of this chapter.

32 (27)(a) "Salary" means the remuneration paid an employee in cash out of the funds of a public
33 employer in return for services to the employer, plus the monetary value, as determined by the
34 Public Employees Retirement Board, of whatever living quarters, board, lodging, fuel, laundry and
35 other advantages the employer furnishes the employee in return for services.

36 (b) "Salary" includes but is not limited to:

37 (A) Payments of employee and employer money into a deferred compensation plan, which are
38 deemed salary paid in each month of deferral;

39 (B) The amount of participation in a tax-sheltered or deferred annuity, which is deemed salary
40 paid in each month of participation;

41 (C) Retroactive payments described in ORS 238.008;

42 (D) Wages of a deceased member paid to a surviving spouse or dependent children under ORS
43 652.190; and

44 (E) The full amount of required employee contributions under ORS 238A.330 that are paid by the
45 employer on behalf of its employees under ORS 238A.335 (2)(b), solely for the purpose of computing

a member's final average salary, and not for any other purpose.

(c) "Salary" or "other advantages" does not include:

(A) Travel or any other expenses incidental to employer's business which is reimbursed by the employer;

(B) Payments for insurance coverage by an employer on behalf of employee or employee and dependents, for which the employee has no cash option;

(C) Payments made on account of an employee's death;

(D) Any lump sum payment for accumulated unused sick leave;

(E) Any accelerated payment of an employment contract for a future period or an advance against future wages;

(F) Any retirement incentive, retirement severance pay, retirement bonus or retirement gratuitous payment;

(G) Payments for periods of leave of absence after the date the employer and employee have agreed that no future services qualifying pursuant to ORS 238.015 (3) will be performed, except for sick leave and vacation;

(H) Payments for instructional services rendered to public universities listed in ORS 352.002 or the Oregon Health and Science University when such services are in excess of full-time employment subject to this chapter. A person employed under a contract for less than 12 months is subject to this subparagraph only for the months to which the contract pertains;

(I) Payments made by an employer for insurance coverage provided to a domestic partner of an employee;

(J) Compensation described and authorized under ORS 341.556 that is not paid by the community college employing the faculty member;

(K) Compensation described and authorized under ORS 352.232 that is not paid by the public university employing the officer or employee;

(L) Compensation described and authorized under ORS 353.270 that is not paid by Oregon Health and Science University; or

(M) For years beginning on or after January 1, 2020, any amount in excess of \$195,000 for a calendar year. If any period over which salary is determined is less than 12 months, the \$195,000 limitation for that period shall be multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of months in the determination period and the denominator of which is 12. On January 1 of each year, the board shall adjust the dollar limit provided by this subparagraph to reflect any percentage changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, West Region (All Items), as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor.

(28) "School year" means the period beginning July 1 and ending June 30 next following.

(29) "System" means the Public Employees Retirement System.

(30) "Variable account" means the account established for a member who participates in the Variable Annuity Account under ORS 238.260.

(31) "Vested" means being an active member of the system in each of five calendar years.

(32) "Volunteer firefighter" means a firefighter whose position normally requires less than 600 hours of service per year.

SECTION 2. (1) The amendments to ORS 238.005 by section 1 of this 2026 Act apply only to a person who:

(a)(A) Is employed as an assistant attorney general of the Criminal Justice Division of the Department of Justice on the effective date of this 2026 Act; or

1 (B) Becomes employed as an assistant attorney general of the Criminal Justice Division
2 of the Department of Justice after the effective date of this 2026 Act;

3 (b)(A) Is employed as a juvenile custody services specialist or juvenile court counselor
4 of a county juvenile department who is charged with and primarily performs the duties de-
5 scribed in ORS 419A.012 and 419A.016 on the effective date of this 2026 Act; or

6 (B) Becomes employed as a juvenile custody services specialist or juvenile court counse-
7 lor of a county juvenile department who is charged with and primarily performs the duties
8 described in ORS 419A.012 and 419A.016 after the effective date of this 2026 Act;

9 (c)(A) Is employed by a county sheriff, a municipal police department or a police depart-
10 ment established by a university under ORS 352.121 or 353.125 and is classified as a forensic
11 scientist or evidence technician by the employer on the effective date of this 2026 Act; or

12 (B) Becomes employed by a county sheriff, a municipal police department or a police
13 department established by a university under ORS 352.121 or 353.125 and is classified as a
14 forensic scientist or evidence technician by the employer after the effective date of this 2026
15 Act;

16 (d)(A) Is employed by the Department of State Police, a county sheriff, a municipal police
17 department or a police department established by a university under ORS 352.121 or 353.125
18 to be responsible for obtaining, classifying and verifying fingerprints using electronic or
19 manual methods on the effective date of this 2026 Act; or

20 (B) Becomes employed by the Department of State Police, a county sheriff, a municipal
21 police department or a police department established by a university under ORS 352.121 or
22 353.125 to be responsible for obtaining, classifying and verifying fingerprints using electronic
23 or manual methods after the effective date of this 2026 Act;

24 (e)(A) Is employed or appointed by a county sheriff, a municipal police department, a
25 county health department or a police department established by a university under ORS
26 352.121 or 353.125 as a certified medicolegal death investigator on the effective date of this
27 2026 Act; or

28 (B) Becomes employed or appointed by a county sheriff, a municipal police department,
29 a county health department or a police department established by a university under ORS
30 352.121 or 353.125 as a certified medicolegal death investigator after the effective date of this
31 2026 Act; or

32 (f)(A) Is employed as a force protection officer or leader of the Oregon Military Depart-
33 ment whose duties include patrolling and protecting state and federal property, personnel
34 and essential military operational resources on an Oregon Air National Guard installation
35 on the effective date of this 2026 Act; or

36 (B) Becomes employed as a force protection officer or leader of the Oregon Military De-
37 partment whose duties include patrolling and protecting state and federal property, person-
38 nel and essential military operational resources on an Oregon Air National Guard installation
39 after the effective date of this 2026 Act.

40 (2)(a) A person who is employed as an assistant attorney general of the Criminal Justice
41 Division of the Department of Justice on or after the effective date of this 2026 Act is enti-
42 tled to service under the Public Employees Retirement System as a police officer only for
43 service performed as an assistant attorney general of the Criminal Justice Division of the
44 Department of Justice on or after the effective date of this 2026 Act.

45 (b) A person who is employed as a juvenile custody services specialist or juvenile court

1 counselor of a county juvenile department who is charged with and primarily performs the
2 duties described in ORS 419A.012 and 419A.016 on or after the effective date of this 2026 Act
3 is entitled to service under the Public Employees Retirement System as a police officer only
4 for service performed as a juvenile custody services specialist or juvenile court counselor of
5 a county juvenile department who is charged with and primarily performs the duties de-
6 scribed in ORS 419A.012 and 419A.016 on or after the effective date of this 2026 Act.

7 (c) A person who is employed by a county sheriff, a municipal police department or a
8 police department established by a university under ORS 352.121 or 353.125 and classified as
9 a forensic scientist or evidence technician on or after the effective date of this 2026 Act is
10 entitled to service under the Public Employees Retirement System as a police officer only for
11 service performed as a person who is employed by a county sheriff, a municipal police de-
12 partment or a police department established by a university under ORS 352.121 or 353.125 and
13 classified as a forensic scientist or evidence technician on or after the effective date of this
14 2026 Act.

15 (d) A person who is employed by the Department of State Police, a county sheriff, a
16 municipal police department or a police department established by a university under ORS
17 352.121 or 353.125 to be responsible for obtaining, classifying and verifying fingerprints using
18 electronic or manual methods on or after the effective date of this 2026 Act is entitled to
19 service under the Public Employees Retirement System as a police officer only for service
20 performed as a person employed by the Department of State Police, a county sheriff, a mu-
21 nicipal police department or a police department established by a university under ORS
22 352.121 or 353.125 to be responsible for obtaining, classifying and verifying fingerprints using
23 electronic or manual methods on or after the effective date of this 2026 Act.

24 (e) A person who is employed or appointed by a county sheriff, a municipal police de-
25 partment, a county health department or a police department established by a university
26 under ORS 352.121 or 353.125 as a certified medicolegal death investigator on or after the
27 effective date of this 2026 Act is entitled to service under the Public Employees Retirement
28 System as a police officer only for service performed as a person who is employed or ap-
29 pointed by a county sheriff, a municipal police department, a county health department or
30 a police department established by a university under ORS 352.121 or 353.125 as a certified
31 medicolegal death investigator on or after the effective date of this 2026 Act.

32 (f) A person who is employed as a force protection officer or leader of the Oregon Mili-
33 tary Department whose duties include patrolling and protecting state and federal property,
34 personnel and essential military operational resources on an Oregon Air National Guard in-
35 stallation on or after the effective date of this 2026 Act is entitled to service under the Public
36 Employees Retirement System as a police officer only for service performed as a force pro-
37 tection officer or leader of the Oregon Military Department whose duties include patrolling
38 and protecting state and federal property, personnel and essential military operational re-
39 sources on an Oregon Air National Guard installation on or after the effective date of this
40 2026 Act.