

February 1, 2026

Good morning Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Hayden, and members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Patrick Aitchison and I am a Senior Assistant Attorney General within the Criminal Justice Division at the Oregon Department of Justice.

- I have worked at DOJ nearly 16 years. For the past four and a half years, I have been a prosecutor in our Criminal Justice Division. In particular, my role is as a specialized prosecutor of environmental crimes, cultural and archeological resources, and wildlife cases. In that capacity, I assist District Attorneys' offices and state agencies in these complex matters, but more often my work involves being deputized to handle these cases myself.
- Through my work, I have appeared in Wasco, Multnomah, Hood River, Columbia, Clatsop, Lincoln, Malheur, and Gilliam counties.

I am here today in support of SB 1569, which would align assistant attorneys general of the Criminal Justice Division at the Department of Justice into PERS Police and Fire. Like many classifications in this bill, our counterparts employed by other employers across the state already receive this enhanced retirement benefit.

Senate Bill 1569 would finish the work started in 2023 House Bill 2054 and 2024 House Bill 4045, which added criminal prosecutors throughout Oregon (deputy district attorneys and the elected district attorneys) to police and fire PERS. However, when crafted, HB 2054 and HB 4045 left out the approximately 22 criminal prosecutors—those of us who are Assistant Attorneys General here at the Criminal Justice Division.

Under Oregon law, my colleagues and I perform exactly the same job as deputy district attorneys and district attorneys:

We deploy to Oregon counties, embed ourselves in often less-resourced communities around the state—sometimes living away from our families for months at a time—to assume the roles of district attorneys and deputy district attorneys. Our work prosecuting criminal cases throughout Oregon's 36 counties is essential work that makes the entire state safer.

However, at this time my colleagues and I are the only Oregon PERS prosecutors (out of roughly 440 state and local prosecutors) not included in the police and fire tier of PERS.

For these reasons, I urge this committee to vote yes on SB 1569.

Respectfully,

Patrick Aitchison
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