

HB 2041 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Workforce

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Meeting Dates: 3/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds parole and probation officers employed by the Department of Corrections to the definition of "police officer" for the purpose of life insurance benefits.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Corrections (DOC) operates community corrections in Douglas and Linn counties. The parole and probation officers employed by DOC in those counties are unionized and represented by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). Under current statute, parole and probation officers employed by the department are not included in the definition of "police officers" under ORS 243.005. This means that they are not eligible for life insurance benefits as provided by ORS 243.015-55. Prior to March of 2015, the department had erroneously provided its parole and probation officers with life insurance benefits. On March 3, 2015, the department informed its parole and probation officers that they would no longer receive this benefit. A subsequent unfair labor practice complaint, UP-012-15 resulted in DOC agreeing to reimburse DOC's parole and probation officers for their enrollment in the Public Employees' Benefit Board (PEBB) Accidental Death and Dismemberment life insurance policy. DOC also agreed to jointly support legislation to amend ORS 243.025 to statutorily guarantee life insurance to DOC parole and probation officers.

House Bill 2041 is the statutory fix that places DOC parole and probation officers within the definition of "police officer" for the purpose of life insurance benefits provided by ORS 243.015-55.