



OREGON STATE FIRE FIGHTERS COUNCIL

International Association of Fire Fighters
AFL-CIO CLC

House Committee on Business and Labor
Chair Paul Holvey
Vice Chair Bonham and Vice Chair Grayber

5/03/2021

For the record, Karl Koenig President of the Oregon State Fire Fighters Council, here to testify in favor of Senate Bill 111A- Engrossed.

Today we are asking for your support of SB 111A- Engrossed or what we are calling the "Active but Eligible" provision of ORS 238.395 relating to the death of an active member of PERS, and the benefits paid to their beneficiaries.

In the recent past the Legislature has revised language in statute that dealt with fairness issues regarding benefit amounts in the event of a member's death within all three tier's 1 and 2 and OPSRP Retirement plans. The Bill now closes what could be considered a loophole that takes earned retirement credit and collects it as a "one size fits all" solution. Hence the term "Active but eligible" that passed in the Senate.

As one example, a Salem Fire Fighter who died in 2019 after 27 years of PERS qualified service only received his member account balance as was the law at the time of his death. Within the current SB111A- Engrossed his full service credit of 54% would be paid to his beneficiary. This Bill provides the beneficiary of the "active but eligible" with the earned retirement in the event of this occurrence.

We ask you, House Committee on Business and Labor to pass out of committee and support this Bill on the House Floor.

Thank you for your consideration in advance,

Karl Koenig
President
Oregon State Fire Fighters Council

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