

SB 951 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 5/16, 5/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Specifies that certified parole and probation officers employed by the Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision qualify as police officers for purposes of the Public Employees Retirement System.

REVENUE: Revenue impact issued

FISCAL: Has indeterminate fiscal; explanatory statement issued

SENATE VOTE: Ayes, 16, Nays, 13

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Permits parole and probation officers to retain existing benefits, provided they maintain certification with the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training
- Would currently apply to three people employed by the Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision
- Police and fire PERS status lost after working in a non-qualified position for five years
- Board Members and Director serve up to two four-year terms
- Effect on accrued years of police and fire PERS benefits if no longer in a qualifying position

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Parole and probation officers qualify as police officers for Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) benefits if (a) they are employed by the Department of Corrections, (b) are transferred to county employment as adult parole and probation officers and classified as police officers by the county governing body, or (c) are employed as juvenile parole and probation officers by the Oregon Youth Authority. Senate Bill 41 A (2021) modified the definition of parole and probation officers to include certified full-time officers employed by the Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision. Senate Bill 42 (2021) would have qualified members and officers of the Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision as police officers for purposes of PERS, but the bill remained in the Joint Ways and Means Committee upon adjournment sine die.

Senate Bill 951 permits certified parole and probation officers employed by the Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision to retain designation as police officers for purposes of PERS.