

SB 588 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Labor and Business

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Meeting Dates: 1/30, 2/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure specifies that when a member of the Public Employees Retirement System who is a police or firefighter requests a contested case hearing to dispute a final denial of an application for a disability retirement allowance, the Public Employees Retirement Board (board) shall hold the contest case hearing within 90 days after the request for the hearing, or, upon good cause, within 180 days of the request for a hearing. The measure specifies that if the board does not hold a contested case hearing within this specified time, the member prevails in disputing the final denial. The measure specifies that when a member of the Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan who is a police or firefighter requests a contested case hearing to dispute a final denial of an application for disability benefits, the Public Employees Retirement Board (board) shall hold the contest case hearing within 90 days after the request for the hearing, or, upon good cause, within 180 days of the request for a hearing. The measure specifies that if the board does not hold a contested case hearing within this specified time, the member prevails in disputing the final denial. The measure provides that "post-traumatic stress disorder" suffered by a police officer or firefighter is an injury or disease sustained in the actual performance of duties for purposes of specified benefits under PERS in certain circumstances. Defines "DSM-5." The measure directs the board to hold all outstanding contested case hearings that have been requested by a police officer or a firefighter before the effective date of this measure to dispute a final denial of an application for disability retirement allowance or for disability benefits within 180 days after the effective date of this measure. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) provides retirement benefits for state agencies and approximately 900 units of local government. PERS is overseen by a five-member board that appoints an executive director to manage the agency's daily operations, including the management of benefits for more than 393,000 active, inactive, and retired members and beneficiaries. PERS members are in one of three plans, depending on when they first became a member. The three plans are: Tier One, Tier Two, and the Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan (OPSRP). PERS members who work in positions that meet the definitions for "police officer" and "firefighter" are eligible for special benefit provisions such as retiring at an earlier age and calculating their retirement benefit with a higher statutory factor.

Senate Bill 588 provides that "post-traumatic stress disorder" suffered by a police officer or firefighter is an injury or disease sustained in the actual performance of duties for purposes of specified benefits under PERS in certain circumstances.