

SB 852 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards

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Meeting Dates: 4/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure modifies statutory provisions within the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) affecting post-retirement death benefits.

Detailed Summary:

Section 1

Requires that when a member of the individual account program within PERS elects to receive installment payments and dies before all amounts in the employee and vested employer accounts are paid, the remaining account balance is paid in a lump sum distribution.

Section 2

Specifies that when the additional monthly death benefit payable to surviving spouses or children of specified police officers and firefighters is less than \$200 per month, the beneficiary will receive an actuarial lump sum equivalent in lieu of the additional monthly death benefit.

Section 3

Removes provision that allows an Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan (OPSRP) member to change from a survivorship benefit to a single life option when the "relationship" with the beneficiary is terminated after the member retires.

Section 4

Permits surviving spouse of a Tier One or Tier Two PERS member who is the member's beneficiary to elect to receive the amount referred to in ORS 238.390, or elect Option 2 or Option 3 under ORS 238.305, and designate themselves as the beneficiary if the member had attained normal retirement age and retired from service, but died prior to the deadline of the time an election could be made by the member to change the member's service retirement benefit option, regardless of whether the member had already made an election.

Fiscal impact: Minimal fiscal impact

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

Senate vote: 27 aye; 1 no; 2 excused

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

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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. An Individual Account Program (IAP) is an account-based benefit for all Tier One, Tier Two, and OPSRP members who have worked in a qualifying position since January 1, 2004. An IAP receives funding through employer contributions.

Senate Bill 852 modifies statutory provisions within the Public Employees Retirement System affecting post-retirement death benefits.