

SB 1569 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Prepared By: Whitney Perez, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/9, 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure adds assistant attorney generals, juvenile custody services specialist and juvenile court counselors of a county juveniles department who perform specified duties, forensic scientists or evidence technicians employed by a county sheriff, municipal police department, or a university police department, persons responsible for obtaining, classifying, and verifying fingerprints who are employed by the Department of State Police, a county sheriff, a municipal police department, or a university police department, certified medicolegal death investigators employed by a county sheriff, municipal police department, county health department, or a university police department, and force protection officers and leaders employed by the Oregon Military Department who perform specified duties to the definition of police officer for purposes of the Public Employees Retirement System. The measure applies to persons employed in these positions on or after the effective date of the measure.

Fiscal impact: Fiscal statement issued

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Past legislation related to hazardous positions and police officers within the Public Employees Retirement System
- Federal definition of "public safety employee" and federal regulations
- Potential fiscal impact of measure
- Work performed by job classifications covered in this measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) provides retirement benefits for approximately 900 state agencies and units of local government, including public schools, community colleges, cities, and counties. 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 390,000 active, inactive, and retired members and beneficiaries. PERS members are in one of three plans, depending on when they first became a member: 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.

In 2024, House Bill 4045, in part, added forensic scientists and evidence technicians employed by the Department of State Police, and district attorneys to the definition of "police officer" for purposes of PERS.