

Senate Bill 980

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON RULES (at the request of AFSCME)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Classifies doctors and nurses who work at Oregon State Hospital as police officers for purposes of benefits under Public Employees Retirement System.

Applies only to service rendered on or after effective date of Act.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to public employee retirement; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 238.005.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 238.005 is amended to read:

5 238.005. For purposes of this chapter:

6 (1) "Annuity" means payments for life derived from contributions made by a member as provided
7 in this chapter.

8 (2) "Board" means the Public Employees Retirement Board.

9 (3) "Calendar year" means 12 calendar months commencing on January 1 and ending on De-
10 cember 31 following.

11 (4) "Continuous service" means service not interrupted for more than five years, except that
12 such continuous service shall be computed without regard to interruptions in the case of:

13 (a) An employee who had returned to the service of the employer as of January 1, 1945, and
14 who remained in that employment until having established membership in the Public Employees
15 Retirement System.

16 (b) An employee who was in the armed services on January 1, 1945, and returned to the service
17 of the employer within one year of the date of being otherwise than dishonorably discharged and
18 remained in that employment until having established membership in the Public Employees Retire-
19 ment System.

20 (5) "Creditable service" means any period of time during which an active member is being paid
21 a salary by a participating public employer and for which benefits under this chapter are funded by
22 employer contributions and earnings on the fund. For purposes of computing years of "creditable
23 service," full months and major fractions of a month shall be considered to be one-twelfth of a year
24 and shall be added to all full years. "Creditable service" includes all retirement credit received by
25 a member.

26 (6) "Earliest service retirement age" means the age attained by a member when the member
27 could first make application for retirement under the provisions of ORS 238.280.

28 (7) "Employee" includes, in addition to employees, public officers, but does not include:

29 (a) Persons engaged as independent contractors.

30 (b) Seasonal, emergency or casual workers whose periods of employment with any public em-
31 ployer or public employers do not total 600 hours in any calendar year.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (c) Persons, other than workers in the Oregon Industries for the Blind under ORS 346.190, pro-
2 vided sheltered employment or made-work by a public employer in an employment or industries
3 program maintained for the benefit of such persons.

4 (d) Persons employed and paid from federal funds received under the Emergency Job and Un-
5 employment Assistance Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-567) or any other federal program intended pri-
6 marily to alleviate unemployment. However, any such person shall be considered an “employee” if
7 not otherwise excluded by paragraphs (a) to (c) of this subsection and the public employer elects to
8 have the person so considered by an irrevocable written notice to the board.

9 (e) Persons who are employees of a railroad, as defined in ORS 824.020, and who, as such em-
10 ployees, are included in a retirement plan under federal railroad retirement statutes. This paragraph
11 shall be deemed to have been in effect since the inception of the system.

12 (8) “Final average salary” means whichever of the following is greater:

13 (a) The average salary per calendar year paid by one or more participating public employers to
14 an employee who is an active member of the system in three of the calendar years of membership
15 before the effective date of retirement of the employee, in which three years the employee was paid
16 the highest salary. The three calendar years in which the employee was paid the largest total salary
17 may include calendar years in which the employee was employed for less than a full calendar year.
18 If the number of calendar years of active membership before the effective date of retirement of the
19 employee is three or fewer, the final average salary for the employee is the average salary per cal-
20 endar year paid by one or more participating public employers to the employee in all of those years,
21 without regard to whether the employee was employed for the full calendar year.

22 (b) One-third of the total salary paid by a participating public employer to an employee who is
23 an active member of the system in the last 36 calendar months of active membership before the ef-
24 fective date of retirement of the employee.

25 (9) “Firefighter” does not include a volunteer firefighter, but does include:

26 (a) The State Fire Marshal, the chief deputy fire marshal and deputy state fire marshals; and

27 (b) An employee of the State Forestry Department who is certified by the State Forester as a
28 professional wildland firefighter and whose primary duties include the abatement of uncontrolled
29 fires as described in ORS 477.064.

30 (10) “Fiscal year” means 12 calendar months commencing on July 1 and ending on June 30 fol-
31 lowing.

32 (11) “Fund” means the Public Employees Retirement Fund.

33 (12)(a) “Member” means a person who has established membership in the system and whose
34 membership has not been terminated as described in ORS 238.095. “Member” includes active, inac-
35 tive and retired members.

36 (b) “Active member” means a member who is presently employed by a participating public em-
37 ployer in a position that meets the requirements of ORS 238.015 (4), and who has completed the
38 six-month period of service required by ORS 238.015.

39 (c) “Inactive member” means a member who is absent from the service of all employers partic-
40 ipating in the system, whose membership has not been terminated in the manner described by ORS
41 238.095, and who is not retired for service or disability. “Inactive member” includes a member who
42 would be an active member except that the person’s only employment with a participating public
43 employer is in a position that does not meet the requirements of ORS 238.015 (4).

44 (d) “Retired member” means a member who is retired for service or disability.

45 (13)(a) “Member account” means the regular account and the variable account.

1 (b) "Regular account" means the account established for each active and inactive member under
2 ORS 238.250.

3 (c) "Variable account" means the account established for a member who participates in the
4 Variable Annuity Account under ORS 238.260.

5 (14) "Normal retirement age" means:

6 (a) For a person who establishes membership in the system before January 1, 1996, as described
7 in ORS 238.430, 55 years of age if the employee retires at that age as a police officer or firefighter
8 or 58 years of age if the employee retires at that age as other than a police officer or firefighter.

9 (b) For a person who establishes membership in the system on or after January 1, 1996, as de-
10 scribed in ORS 238.430, 55 years of age if the employee retires at that age as a police officer or
11 firefighter or 60 years of age if the employee retires at that age as other than a police officer or
12 firefighter.

13 (15) "Pension" means annual payments for life derived from contributions by one or more public
14 employers.

15 (16) "Police officer" includes:

16 (a) Employees of institutions defined in ORS 421.005 as Department of Corrections institutions
17 whose duties, as assigned by the Director of the Department of Corrections, include the custody of
18 persons committed to the custody of or transferred to the Department of Corrections and employees
19 of the Department of Corrections who were classified as police officers on or before July 27, 1989,
20 whether or not such classification was authorized by law.

21 (b) Employees of the Department of State Police who are classified as police officers by the
22 Superintendent of State Police.

23 (c) Employees of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission who are classified as enforcement of-
24 ficers by the administrator of the commission.

25 (d) Sheriffs and those deputy sheriffs or other employees of a sheriff whose duties, as classified
26 by the sheriff, are the regular duties of police officers or corrections officers.

27 (e) Police chiefs and police personnel of a city who are classified as police officers by the
28 council or other governing body of the city.

29 (f) Parole and probation officers employed by the Department of Corrections, parole and pro-
30 bation officers who are transferred to county employment under ORS 423.549 and adult parole and
31 probation officers, as defined in ORS 181.610, who are classified as police officers for the purposes
32 of this chapter by the county governing body. If a county classifies adult parole and probation offi-
33 cers as police officers for the purposes of this chapter, and the employees so classified are repres-
34 ented by a labor organization, any proposal by the county to change that classification or to cease
35 to classify adult parole and probation officers as police officers for the purposes of this chapter is
36 a mandatory subject of bargaining.

37 (g) Police officers appointed under ORS 276.021 or 276.023.

38 (h) Employees of the Port of Portland who are classified as airport police by the Board of
39 Commissioners of the Port of Portland.

40 (i) Employees of the State Department of Agriculture who are classified as livestock police of-
41 ficers by the Director of Agriculture.

42 (j) Employees of the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training who are classified by
43 the department as other than secretarial or clerical personnel.

44 (k) Investigators of the Criminal Justice Division of the Department of Justice.

45 (L) Corrections officers as defined in ORS 181.610.

1 (m) Employees of the Oregon State Lottery Commission who are classified by the Director of the
2 Oregon State Lottery as enforcement agents pursuant to ORS 461.110.

3 (n) The Director of the Department of Corrections.

4 (o) An employee who for seven consecutive years has been classified as a police officer as de-
5 fined by this section, and who is employed or transferred by the Department of Corrections to fill
6 a position designated by the Director of the Department of Corrections as being eligible for police
7 officer status.

8 (p) An employee of the Department of Corrections classified as a police officer on or prior to
9 July 27, 1989, whether or not that classification was authorized by law, as long as the employee
10 remains in the position held on July 27, 1989. The initial classification of an employee under a sys-
11 tem implemented pursuant to ORS 240.190 does not affect police officer status.

12 (q) Employees of a school district who are appointed and duly sworn members of a law
13 enforcement agency of the district as provided in ORS 332.531 or otherwise employed full-time as
14 police officers commissioned by the district.

15 (r) Employees at youth correction facilities and juvenile detention facilities under ORS 419A.050,
16 419A.052 and 420.005 to 420.915 who are required to hold valid Oregon teaching licenses and who
17 have supervisory, control or teaching responsibilities over juveniles committed to the custody of the
18 Department of Corrections or the Oregon Youth Authority.

19 (s) Employees at youth correction facilities as defined in ORS 420.005 whose primary job de-
20 scription involves the custody, control, treatment, investigation or supervision of juveniles placed
21 in such facilities.

22 (t) Employees of the Oregon Youth Authority who are classified as juvenile parole and probation
23 officers.

24 **(u) Doctors and nurses who work at the Oregon State Hospital.**

25 (17) "Public employer" means the state, one of its agencies, any city, county, or municipal or
26 public corporation, any political subdivision of the state or any instrumentality thereof, or an agency
27 created by one or more such governmental organizations to provide governmental services. For
28 purposes of this chapter, such agency created by one or more governmental organizations is a gov-
29 ernmental instrumentality and a legal entity with power to enter into contracts, hold property and
30 sue and be sued.

31 (18) "Prior service credit" means credit provided under ORS 238.442 or under ORS 238.225 (2)
32 to (6) (1999 Edition).

33 (19) "Retirement credit" means a period of time that is treated as creditable service for the
34 purposes of this chapter.

35 (20)(a) "Salary" means the remuneration paid an employee in cash out of the funds of a public
36 employer in return for services to the employer, plus the monetary value, as determined by the
37 Public Employees Retirement Board, of whatever living quarters, board, lodging, fuel, laundry and
38 other advantages the employer furnishes the employee in return for services.

39 (b) "Salary" includes but is not limited to:

40 (A) Payments of employee and employer money into a deferred compensation plan, which are
41 deemed salary paid in each month of deferral;

42 (B) The amount of participation in a tax-sheltered or deferred annuity, which is deemed salary
43 paid in each month of participation; and

44 (C) Retroactive payments made to an employee to correct a clerical error or pursuant to an
45 award by a court or by order of or a conciliation agreement with an administration agency charged

1 with enforcing federal or state law protecting the employee’s rights to employment or wages, which
2 shall be allocated to and deemed paid in the periods in which the work was done or in which it
3 would have been done.

4 (c) “Salary” or “other advantages” does not include:

5 (A) Travel or any other expenses incidental to employer’s business which is reimbursed by the
6 employer;

7 (B) Payments for insurance coverage by an employer on behalf of employee or employee and
8 dependents, for which the employee has no cash option;

9 (C) Payments made on account of an employee’s death;

10 (D) Any lump sum payment for accumulated unused sick leave;

11 (E) Any accelerated payment of an employment contract for a future period or an advance
12 against future wages;

13 (F) Any retirement incentive, retirement severance pay, retirement bonus or retirement
14 gratuitous payment;

15 (G) Payments for periods of leave of absence after the date the employer and employee have
16 agreed that no future services qualifying pursuant to ORS 238.015 (3) will be performed, except for
17 sick leave and vacation;

18 (H) Payments for instructional services rendered to institutions of the Department of Higher
19 Education or the Oregon Health and Science University when such services are in excess of full-
20 time employment subject to this chapter. A person employed under a contract for less than 12
21 months is subject to this subparagraph only for the months to which the contract pertains; or

22 (I) Payments made by an employer for insurance coverage provided to a domestic partner of an
23 employee.

24 (21) “School year” means the period beginning July 1 and ending June 30 next following.

25 (22) “System” means the Public Employees Retirement System.

26 (23) “Vested” means being an active member of the system in each of five calendar years.

27 (24) “Volunteer firefighter” means a firefighter whose position normally requires less than 600
28 hours of service per year.

29 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 238.005 by section 1 of this 2005 Act apply only to**
30 **service performed by doctors and nurses at the Oregon State Hospital on or after the effec-**
31 **tive date of this 2005 Act.**

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