

Oregon PERS Retirees, Inc. (OPRI) 2025 Legislative Session Summary

Public Affairs Counsel was pleased to advocate and monitor the following issues for the Oregon PERS Retirees, Inc during the 2025 Oregon legislative session. This is a recap of issues that were identified as legislative priorities and issues of concern for OPRI.

Retirement Health Insurance Subsidy (SB 847): Supported by OPRI, SB 847 would have increased the Retirement Health Insurance account subsidy under the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) to an amount equal to \$100 or the total monthly cost of the coverage, up from the current \$60 per month subsidy. The measure also would have made members of the Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan (OPSRP) eligible to receive the Retiree Health Insurance Premium Account subsidy and the Retirement Health Insurance Account subsidy.

Final Outcome: Died. After passing out of the Senate 17-10, SB 847 ran into problems in the House as local governments opposed the bill on the grounds of employer costs. SB 847. House leadership did not move the bill to the floor as they were concerned it did not have the necessary votes to pass.

Authorizes State Treasurer to Manage Risk of Fossil Fuel Investments (HB 2081/HB 2200): The issue of climate change in the Public Employees Retirement fund (OPERF) was once again a topic of interest this legislative session. In 2025, the bill was less prescriptive than years prior. Though it still calls for reducing carbon intensity, neither the Oregon Investment Council nor the State Treasurer is required to take action unless they are able to make a good faith determination that such action is consistent with their fiduciary responsibilities outlined in state law. The measure would require the Oregon Investment Council and State Treasurer to analyze and manage the risks of climate change to OPERF; analyze how the integration of climate change analysis will help achieve portfolio return objectives; pursue the goal of reducing the carbon intensity of the fund; and submit biennial reports to the Legislative Assembly regarding progress toward an investment program that addresses the impact of climate change factors on the portfolio.

After a few false starts, HB 2081 became the bill that was ultimately passed by the legislature. Several related bills – including a more prescriptive SB 681 – were killed in order to make way for the passage of HB 2081.

Final Outcome: Passed. HB 2081 passed out of the House and Senate on a vote of 36-18 and 18-10 respectively. Governor Kotek signed the bill into law.

ESG Investment Impact Analysis (HB 3765): Legislation was introduced that would require the State Treasurer and the Oregon Investment Council (OIC) to take steps to use environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors in investment decisions. It calls the State Treasurer and OIC to implement a system to perform ESG analyses of current and proposed investments, assign personnel to oversee the system and issue an annual report on actions taken pursuant to the system. The measure prohibits investments in entities that are determined by an international body to have violated international law.

Final Outcome: Died. HB 3765 failed to make it out of its committee of origin, dying with the first chamber deadline. HB 3765 was killed in favor of passing HB 2081.

Restrictions for State Fossil Fuel Investments (SB 681): Another piece of legislation focused on fossil fuel divestments, SB 681 prohibits the State Treasurer from renewing investments in or making new investments in a private market fund if the managers of the fund have stated an intention to invest in fossil fuels, subject to fiduciary duties.

Final Outcome: Died. SB 681 sat dormant in the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue after it received a public hearing on March 19th. SB 681 was killed in favor of passing HB 2081.

Changes to PERS Disability Benefits for Police and Fire (SB 588/SB 1128): SB 1128 and SB 588 are two PERS bills addressing Police and Fire benefits. Both were monitored by OPRI. SB 588 became the official bill for the concept. SB 588 provides that Police and Fire PERS members are considered disabled if the member is mentally or physically incapacitated and unable to perform the work the member performed at the time the member became disabled, instead of unable to perform any work. It allows a disabled member of the system to receive PERS benefits without losing disability benefits.

Final Outcome: Passed. SB 588 took three public hearings on the Senate side to gain the traction to sail through the legislature unanimously. The Governor signed the bill into law in May.

Task Force on Health Insurance Coverage (SB 751): SB 751 creates the Task Force on Health Insurance Coverage for Retired Police and Fire Members of the Public Employees Retirement System, specifying membership and directives for the task force. The measure requires the task force to submit a report to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to general government by January 1, 2026.

Final Outcome: Died. SB 751 was unable to advance past the Joint Committee on Ways and Means this session.



May 19, 2025

Oregon PERS Retirees, Inc SB 847-A – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Grayber & members of the House Labor and Workplace Standards Committee:

Oregon PERS Retirees, Inc (OPRI) is an association of nearly 10,000 PERS retirees organized for the purpose of safeguarding PERS retirement benefits. The average PERS retiree claims a benefit of just over \$33,000 annually. 60% of PERS retirees have a benefit under \$36,000 per year.

You may not be aware, but the cost savings to PERS since the 2013 "grand bargain" PERS reforms have largely been achieved by suppressing annual cost-of-living adjustments to retirees. PERS retirees have lost ground to inflation ever since.

For instance, in 2021 the social security COLA was increased by 5.9% and in 2022 was increased by another 8.7%. Meanwhile, the PERS COLA is capped at 2% annually for service prior to 2013. For more recent retirees, the cap is even less – 1.25%. This means that while inflation increased 14.6% in 2021-22, PERS retirees only saw a cost-of-living increase of 4% (and in many cases, less).

This is just a small example of how the purchasing power of the PERS benefit eroded by 10.6% over the course of just two years. It eroded again by 1.7% over the 2023-24 time period.

SB 847 is an opportunity to extend a modest benefit to PERS retirees who have seen their benefits erode over time. SB 847 increases the monthly health insurance subsidy to PERS retirees from \$60 (set in 1988!) to \$100. It is not indexed. It also extends this subsidy to OPSRP members (ie. Tier Three).

This is a modest benefit increase that helps PERS retirees gain some lost economic ground and extend health insurance benefits to retirees who might otherwise not be able to afford it.

SB 847 comes at the recommendation of the PERS Agency as the best option for addressing the declining enrollments in the PERS Health Insurance Program (PHIP) and maintaining PHIP as a viable program to insure retirees who are unable to be insured with another option. Enrollment in this program needs to increase for it to remain viable.

This proposal stemmed the 2023 legislature's own budget note on the PERS Agency that required the agency to study PHIP and determine ways to maintain viability.

The cost of SB 847 to local and state government is small. The *Milliman* estimate is that the cost

increase will be in a range between 0.04% and 0.28% for participating public employers. The 0.04% estimate assumes that the participation rate of new OPSRP members will mirror current participation rates of Tier 1/Tier 2 retirees. The 0.28% estimate assumes that OPSRP members will participate at twice the rate of current Tier 1/Tier 2 retirees. The PERS Agency believes that that cost will more closely align with the 0.04% projection.

Again, please keep in mind that your average OPSRP (Tier Three) PERS retiree claims a retirement benefit of less than \$3,000 per month with annual COLA's that do not keep pace with inflation.

SB 847 is a good bill - it's a modest bill - but just as importantly, it's the only bill available in 2025 to demonstrate a commitment to your retirees who have seen their benefits dramatically eaten away in recent years by inflation due to the strict 2013 COLA caps.

J.L. Wilson
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March 19, 2025

Oregon PERS Retirees, Inc SB 681 – Oppose

Dear Chair Meek & members of Senate Finance & Revenue Committee:

Oregon PERS Retirees, Inc (OPRI) is an association of nearly 10,000 PERS retirees organized for the purpose of safeguarding PERS retirement benefits. The average PERS retiree claims a benefit of just over \$33,000 annually. 60% of PERS retirees have a benefit under \$36,000 per year.

As part of safeguarding PERS retirement benefits, our member retirees are united in their support of the fiduciary responsibility of the State Treasurer and Oregon Investment Council to maximize returns to the Oregon PERS Retirement Fund (OPERF) to support hard earned benefits earned over a lifetime of work.

A number of organizations have contacted us over the past years and months to request our support for bills such as Senate Bill 681 and others. We regularly poll and request feedback from our members on this issue as we want to monitor sentiments on issues of divestment and climate-driven investment strategies for OPERF. Our intent is to accurately convey the sentiments of OPRI members.

We know that there is a constituency in our membership for bills such as SB 681. Based on membership polling, about 25% of the membership would support the legislation. However, a majority – about 60% - opposes the legislation.

There is very strong sentiment among the membership that PERS investments should be focused on maximizing returns and benefit levels. The reality is, with a \$33,000 average pension benefit, retirees don't have the luxury of lesser investment returns.

OPRI members perceive a much higher risk to benefit levels associated with pausing or divesting from fossil fuel investments at this time. In fact, the most common refrain we hear is, "Leave the Fund alone!"

It is safe to say retirees support the current focus on maximizing returns and do not favor the dramatic change to the state's investment strategy envisioned by SB 681.

J.L. Wilson Legislative Counsel Oregon PERS Retirees, Inc (OPRI)



Report Date: July 28, 2025

Oregon PERS Retirees

Bill Number	Position	Priority	Last Three Actions	Next Hearing Date
HB 2081	Watch	1	07/25/25 - Chapter 433, (2025 Laws): Effective date September 26, 2025. 06/26/25 - Governor signed. 06/18/25 - President signed.	

Relating to state finance; and prescribing an effective date.

Directs the Oregon Investment Council and the State Treasurer to take certain actions to manage the risks of climate change to the Public Employees Retirement Fund.

Bill Sponsor: Presession filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Revenue for Representative Nancy Nathanson)

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HB 2200	Watch	1	06/27/25 - In committee upon adjournment. 04/08/25 - Work Session held. 03/13/25 - Public Hearing held.	

Relating to sustainable investing.

Directs the Oregon Investment Council and the State Treasurer to take certain actions to reduce the carbon intensity of state investments and address certain investment risks relating to climate change.

Bill Sponsor: Presession filed (at the request of State Treasurer Tobias Read)

7/3/2025 -	· Alicia Givens - De	ad	
HB 3765	Watch	1	06/27/25 - In committee upon adjournment. 03/04/25 - Referred to Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans. 02/27/25 - First reading. Referred to Speaker's desk.

Relating to investments.

Requires the State Treasurer and Oregon Investment Council to implement a system to perform ESG analyses of current and proposed investments, assign personnel to oversee the system and issue an annual report on actions taken pursuant to the

Bill Sponsor: Rep Chaichi; Sen Golden; Sen Manning Jr; Sen Pham

3/24/2025 - Alicia Givens - Dead

SB 681	Watch	1	06/27/25 - In committee upon adjournment. 03/19/25 - Public Hearing held. 01/17/25 - Referred to Finance and Revenue.	
			01/17/25 - Releffed to Finance and Revenue.	

Relating to a moratorium on private investments by the State Treasurer in fossil fuel dominant funds.

Prohibits the State Treasurer from renewing investments in or making new investments in a private market fund if the managers of the fund have stated an intention to invest in fossil fuels, subject to fiduciary duties.

Bill Sponsor: Rep Fragala; Rep Gamba; Rep Hudson; Rep Nelson; Rep Nosse; Sen Frederick; Sen Golden; Sen Manning Jr; Sen Pham; Sen Taylor (Presession filed)

7/3/2025 - Alicia Givens - Dead

SB 847	Support	1	06/27/25 - In committee upon adjournment.
	• •		04/30/25 - Motion to rerefer to Labor and
			Workplace Standards carried. Rereferred.
			04/29/25 - Second reading.

Relating to health insurance subsidies under the Public Employees Retirement System.

Increases the Retirement Health Insurance Account subsidy under the Public Employees Retirement System.

Bill Sponsor: Presession filed (at the request of Governor Tina Kotek for Public Employees Retirement System)

7/3/2025 - Alicia Givens - Dead

Bill Number Position Last Three Actions **Next Hearing Date Priority**



Report Date: July 28, 2025

Oregon PERS Retirees

Bill Number	Position	Priority	Last Three Actions	Next Hearing Date
HB 2098	Not Reviewed	No Priority	06/27/25 - In committee upon adjournment. 05/28/25 - Referred to Tax Expenditures by orde of Speaker. 05/28/25 - Recommendation: Do pass and be referred to Tax Expenditures.	r
Relating to ta	x credits for pension in	ncome.		

Extends the sunset for the tax credit for pension income.

Bill Sponsor: Presession filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Revenue for Representative Nancy Nathanson)

7/3/2025 - Alicia Givens - Dead

1/	3/2025 - All	cia Giveris - Deau			
Н	B 2227	Not Reviewed	No Priority	06/27/25 - In committee upon adjournment. 01/17/25 - Referred to Rules.	
				01/13/25 - First reading. Referred to Speaker's	
				desk.	

Relating to investments.

Requires the State Treasurer to study investments.

Bill Sponsor: Presession filed (at the request of State Treasurer Tobias Read)

7/3/2025 - Alicia Givens - Dead

HB 2571	Not Reviewed	No Priority	06/27/25 - In committee upon adjournment.
110 207 1	Not reviewed	140 1 Honly	01/17/25 - Referred to Emergency Management,
			General Government, and Veterans.
			01/13/25 - First reading. Referred to Speaker's
			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
			desk.

Relating to pension benefit plans offered by public bodies.

Establishes standards for fiduciary of pension benefit plan offered by public body.

Bill Sponsor: Rep Boice; Rep Diehl; Rep Harbick; Rep Javadi; Rep Levy B; Rep Reschke; Rep Skarlatos; Rep Smith G; Rep Wright; Rep Yunker; Sen Thatcher (Presession filed)

3/24/2025	- Alicia Givens - Dead			
HB 2728	Not Reviewed	No Priority	07/17/25 - Governor signed. 06/24/25 - President signed. 06/24/25 - Speaker signed.	

Relating to member data under the Public Employees Retirement System; and prescribing an effective date.

Directs the Public Employees Retirement System to include information about the use of overtime hours in calculating the final average salary of a member of the system who is retiring.

Bill Sponsor: Rep Grayber; Rep Neron (Presession filed)

HB 3250	Not Reviewed	No Priority	06/27/25 - In committee upon adjournment. 01/24/25 - Referred to Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans. 01/21/25 - First reading. Referred to Speaker's
			desk.
	HB 3250	HB 3250 Not Reviewed	HB 3250 Not Reviewed No Priority

Relating to consideration of nonfinancial factors in managing state investments.

Prohibits the Oregon Investment Council, the State Treasurer and managers from considering nonfinancial factors when directing or managing the investment of the Public Employees Retirement Fund.

Bill Sponsor: Rep Reschke 3/24/2025 - Alicia Givens - Dead



Report Date: July 28, 2025

Oregon PERS Retirees

Bill Number	Position	Priority	Last Three Actions	Next Hearing Date
HB 3363	Not Reviewed	No Priority	06/27/25 - In committee upon adjournment. 04/15/25 - Referred to Rules by order of Speaker and then Ways and Means by prior reference. 04/15/25 - Without recommendation as to passage, be referred to Rules, and then to Ways and Means by prior reference.	

Relating to the application of overtime under the Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan.

Modifies how the overtime cap is calculated for use in calculating the final average salary of members of the Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan.

Bill Sponsor: Rep McLain; Rep Neron; Rep Smith G; Sen Gorsek; Sen Manning Jr

7/4/2025 - Alicia Givens - Dead

3/17/2025 - Alicia Givens - Looks like Mirror of SB 475, the weird OPSRP OT calculation bill that makes no sense.

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SB 112	Not Reviewed	No Priority	06/27/25 - In committee upon adjournment. 04/15/25 - Referred to Tax Expenditures by prior reference.
			04/15/25 - Recommendation: Do pass and be referred to Tax Expenditures by prior reference.

Relating to tax credits for pension income.

Extends the sunset for the tax credit for pension income.

Bill Sponsor: Presession filed (at the request of Senate Interim Committee on Finance and Revenue)

7/4/2025	- Alicia	Givens -	Dead
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SB 143	Not Reviewed	No Priority	07/02/25 - Effective date, September 26, 2025.
		•	07/02/25 - Chapter 462, 2025 Laws.
			06/26/25 - Governor signed.

Relating to administration of public funds; and prescribing an effective date.

Increases the percentage points of the employer tax rate that are used to determine the amount of wages paid into the Supplemental Employment Department Administration Fund each calendar quarter.

Bill Sponsor: Presession filed (at the request of State Treasurer Tobias Read)

SB 394	Not Reviewed	No Priority	06/27/25 - In committee upon adjournment. 01/17/25 - Referred to Finance and Revenue. 01/13/25 - Introduction and first reading. Referred to President's desk.

Relating to corporate activity tax revenues.

Provides that, for 10 years, revenues from the corporate activity tax are transferred to the Public Employees Retirement Fund for payment of the unfunded actuarial liability of the Public Employees Retirement System, instead of to the Fund for Student Success.

Bill Sponsor: Sen Girod (Presession filed)

7/4/2025 - Alicia	Givens - Dead
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SB 475	Not Reviewed	No Priority	06/27/25 - In committee upon adjournment.
			02/25/25 - Public Hearing held.
			01/17/25 - Referred to Labor and Business.

Relating to the application of overtime under the Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan.

Modifies how the overtime cap is calculated for use in calculating the final average salary of members of the Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan.

Bill Sponsor: Rep Nelson; Sen Gorsek; Sen Manning Jr (Presession filed)



Report Date: July 28, 2025

Oregon PERS Retirees

Bill Numbe	r Position	Priority	Last Three Actions	Next Hearing Date
3/24/2025 -	· Alicia Givens - Dead			
SB 585	Not Reviewed	No Priority	06/27/25 - In committee upon adjournment. 01/17/25 - Referred to Labor and Business. 01/13/25 - Introduction and first reading. Referred to President's desk.	
Relating to	public employee retirem	nent.		
Requires th	ne Public Employees Re	tirement Board to	study retirement.	
Bill Sponso	r: Sen Meek (Presessio	n filed)		
3/24/2025 -	· Alicia Givens - Dead			
SB 588	Not Reviewed	No Priority	06/06/25 - Effective date, May 27, 2025. 06/06/25 - Chapter 168, 2025 Laws.	

Relating to disability benefits under the Public Employees Retirement System; and declaring an emergency.

Requires the Public Employees Retirement Board to refer a contested case for a hearing requested by a police officer or firefighter who is denied disability benefits within a certain period of time.

Bill Sponsor: Rep Grayber; Rep Hudson; Rep Lewis; Sen Gelser Blouin; Sen Golden; Sen Hayden; Sen Manning Jr; Sen Meek; Sen Prozanski; Sen Smith DB; Sen Sollman; Sen Taylor (Presession filed)

05/27/25 - Governor signed.

SB 662	Not Reviewed	No Priority	06/27/25 - In committee upon adjournment. 01/17/25 - Referred to Finance and Revenue. 01/13/25 - Introduction and first reading. Referred to President's desk.
Relating to	a tax credit for politica	al contributions, pro	escribing an effective date

Relating to a tax credit for political contributions; prescribing an effective date.

Increases the maximum allowable amount of political contribution personal income tax credit.

Bill Sponsor: Sen Bonham; Sen Robinson (Presession filed) (at the request of Senator Noah Robinson)

7/3/2025 -	/3/2025 - Alicia Givens - Dead							
SB 751	Not Reviewed	No Priority	06/27/25 - In committee upon adjournment. 04/07/25 - Referred to Ways and Means by prior reference. 04/07/25 - Recommendation: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng.)					

Relating to retirement of public safety workers; declaring an emergency.

Establishes the Task Force on Health Insurance Coverage for Retired Police and Fire Members of the Public Employees Retirement System.

Bill Sponsor: Sen Gorsek (Presession filed)

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SB 757 Not Reviewed No Priority 06/06/25 - Effective date, January 1, 2026. 06/06/25 - Chapter 171, 2025 Laws. 05/27/25 - Governor signed.	1/3/2023 - All	cia Giveris - Dead			
	SB 757	Not Reviewed	No Priority	06/06/25 - Chapter 171, 2025 Laws.	

Relating to the salary of chaplains under the Public Employees Retirement System.

Provides that, in determining the salary of a chaplain at the Oregon Health and Science University for purposes of the Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan, a housing allowance shall be treated as if it were includable in the chaplain's taxable income.

Bill Sponsor: Sen Gorsek (Presession filed)



Report Date: July 28, 2025

Oregon PERS Retirees

Bill Number	Position	Priority	Last Three Actions	Next Hearing Date
SB 849	Not Reviewed	No Priority	05/14/25 - Effective date, May 5, 2025. 05/14/25 - Chapter 18, 2025 Laws. 05/05/25 - Governor signed.	
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Relating to the School Districts Unfunded Liability Fund; and declaring an emergency.

Changes the application of moneys in the School Districts Unfunded Liability Fund.

Bill Sponsor: Presession filed (at the request of Governor Tina Kotek for Public Employees Retirement System)

SB 851 Not Reviewed No Priority 05/14/25 - Effective date, January 1, 2026. 05/14/25 - Chapter 49, 2025 Laws.

05/08/25 - Governor signed.

Relating to administration of Public Employees Retirement System member account data.

Modifies provisions relating to the Public Employees Retirement System.

Bill Sponsor: Presession filed (at the request of Governor Tina Kotek for Public Employees Retirement System)

SB 852 Not Reviewed No Priority 05/20/25 - Effective date, January 1, 2026.

05/20/25 - Chapter 70, 2025 Laws.

05/12/25 - Governor signed.

Relating to post-retirement death benefits under the Public Employees Retirement System.

Modifies certain post-retirement death benefits under the Public Employees Retirement System.

Bill Sponsor: Presession filed (at the request of Governor Tina Kotek for Public Employees Retirement System)

SB 902 Not Reviewed No Priority 06/27/25 - In committee upon adjournment.

03/11/25 - Public Hearing held. 02/13/25 - Public Hearing Cancelled.

Relating to age qualifications for retirement under the Public Employees Retirement System.

Requires the Public Employees Retirement Board to study age qualifications for retirement.

Bill Sponsor: Sen Smith DB; Sen Taylor

3/24/2025 - Alicia Givens - Dead

SB 1087 Not Reviewed No Priority 06/27/25 - In committee upon adjournment. 02/25/25 - Referred to Labor and Business.

02/25/25 - Introduction and first reading.

Referred to President's desk.

Relating to public employee retirement.

Directs the Public Employees Retirement Board to study the treatment of the salary of chaplains under the Public Employees Retirement System.

Bill Sponsor: Sen Gorsek

3/24/2025 - Alicia Givens - Dead

SB 1128 Not Reviewed No Priority 06/27/25 - In committee upon adjournment. 03/03/25 - Referred to Labor and Business.

03/03/25 - Referred to Labor and Business. 02/27/25 - Introduction and first reading.

Referred to President's desk.

Relating to disability under the Public Employees Retirement System.

Provides that a police officer or firefighter member of the Public Employees Retirement System is considered disabled if the member is unable to perform the work the member performed at the time the member became disabled.

Bill Sponsor: Sen Gorsek

3/24/2025 - Alicia Givens - Dead



Report Date: July 28, 2025

Oregon PERS Retirees

Bill Number	Position	Priority	Last Three Actions	Next Hearing Date
SB 5531	Not Reviewed	No Priority	06/30/25 - Speaker signed. 06/30/25 - President signed. 06/27/25 - Rules suspended. Third reading as Special Order of Business. Carried by Nosse. Passed. Ayes, 50; Excused, 9Cate, Harbick, McIntire, Nguyen H, Reschke, Smith G, Wallan, Wright, Yunker; Excused for Business of the House, 1Valderrama.	

Relating to lottery bonds; and declaring an emergency.

Modifies the amount and purposes of lottery bonds authorized to be issued for specified state agencies.

Bill Sponsor: Presession filed (at the request of Oregon Department of Administrative Services)

SB 5534 Not Reviewed No Priority 07/25/25 - Effective date, July 17, 2025.
07/25/25 - Chapter 552, 2025 Laws.
07/17/25 - Governor signed.

Relating to the financial administration of the Public Employees Retirement System; and declaring an emergency.

Limits certain biennial expenditures from fees, moneys or other revenues, including Miscellaneous Receipts, but excluding lottery funds and federal funds, collected or received by the Public Employees Retirement System.

Bill Sponsor: Presession filed (at the request of Oregon Department of Administrative Services)