



Oregon
PERS
RETIRES INC.

OPRI Newsletter | Issue #44 | Spring 2024

**RETIREMENT NEWS
YOU CAN USE**



OPRI champions PERS retirees during 2024 Session

OPRI was at the forefront of bills impacting PERS retirees and future retirees during the 2024 legislative session. While only a handful of bills addressed the PERS system this session, OPRI monitored and supported the top legislative priority for members during the 32-day session.

Here is a look at the 2024 issues.

Public Safety Workforce Stabilization Act HB 4045 — PASSED

OPRI actively supported this bill, which was a comprehensive PERS expansion for public safety workers known as “The Public Safety Workforce Stabilization Act of 2024.”

HB 4045 does three things:

- (1) It adds elected District Attorneys into the ‘Police and Fire’ category.
- (2) It creates a new PERS category for ‘hazardous positions’ dedicated to front-line workers who work at the Oregon State Hospital or are 911 call dispatchers.
- (3) It lowers the retirement age for OPSRP ‘Police and Fire’ positions from age 60 to age 55 (or age 53 if accompanied with 25 years of service).

The bill was intended to support these professionals and garnered strong bipartisan support.

The Oregon PERS Retirees, Inc. (OPRI) is the state’s largest organization that exists solely to protect the rights and benefits of Oregon’s retired public employees. We serve retirees like you by monitoring PERS disbursements, advocating for you at the Legislature and, when necessary, defending you in court. To learn more, please visit our website: www.opri.org

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION RECAP



OPRI is the state's largest organization that exists solely to protect the rights and benefits of Oregon's retired public employees.

As a voice for PERS retirees, Oregon PERS Retirees Inc (OPRI) continues to be active on the legislative front. From monitoring bills that would impact PERS retiree benefits, to supporting candidates who stand behind PERS members, OPRI is the only association in the state dedicated to advocating for PERS retirees. We are committed to protecting the retirement you earned.

Investing in OPRI makes a difference — thank you for your support!

Continued from page 1

COAL Act: HB 4083 — PASSED

HB 4083 directs the Oregon Investment Council and the State Treasurer to make efforts to eliminate investments in thermal coal companies. It gives some flexibility that divestments must be accomplished without monetary loss to the investment funds. Finally, it allows for investments to be retained in a thermal coal company that is transitioning to clean energy. HB 4083 was a modified attempt to leverage state investments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It gained much more traction than previous efforts to wholesale divest from fossil fuel energy investments. The State Treasurers Office did not oppose this legislation as it had in previous attempts. As the legislation evolved, the Treasurer supported the bill. OPRI encouraged members to contact their legislators to share their feedback on this bill.

Campaign Finance Reform: HB 4024 — PASSED

Campaign finance reform is now a reality in Oregon for the first time since 1996. The Oregon legislature responded to the prospect of two very stringent campaign finance measures that appeared poised to qualify for the 2024 ballot. Rather than being hamstrung by tight limits, both parties worked to produce a bill that would seek a middle ground and disallow large contributions from businesses, individuals, unions and PACs. As OPRI-PAC is both a “membership” PAC and a “small dollar” PAC, it is very likely that OPRI-PAC will not be severely impacted by the new law, which gives significant preference to both “membership” and “small dollar” PACs.

You can find the full legislative report at [opri.org](https://www.opri.org).

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION RECAP

The 2024 Oregon legislature performed almost exactly to script: Heavy bipartisan focus on reforming Measure 110 and increasing housing supply, very few overtly partisan issues, and prolific spending fueled by ever-increasing tax revenues that had accumulated since the end of the 2023 session.

The Legislature conducted its business in 32 days, adjourning on Thursday evening, March 7th, with three days to spare before the 35-day Constitutional deadline of March 10th.

The 2024 session saw the introduction of 291 bills – an enormous number of bills to consider in just one month’s time – but nowhere near the 3,000 bills introduced in a typical long session. Still, the session pushed the limits of a 35-day session as many of the bills were far too complicated and pushed too far with inadequate time for vetting.

But through it all, most of the potentially controversial, party-line bills failed to advance past the session’s second week, and most bills that ended up passing did so with bipartisan support.

The 2024 session ended as it began - on an upbeat note - as the parties coordinated the resignation of Dan Rayfield (D-Corvallis) as Speaker of the House, and the election of Rep. Julie Fahey (D-Eugene) as the new Speaker.



Follow us on Facebook @ORPersRetirees



PO Box 12945 | Salem, OR 97309

The date above indicates when your membership is up for renewal. For more information, please visit www.opri.org or send a letter to: Oregon PERS Retirees Inc. | PO Box 12945 | Salem, OR 97309

Board of Directors

Jay Osborne, Chair

Bob Oleson, Vice-Chair

Colleen Johnson, Board Member

Greg Monahan, Board Member

Helga Thompson, Board Member

Deanna Woods, Board Member

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

If you would prefer to receive your OPRI newsletter by email, please contact us at 503-373-3710 or email us at info@opri.org

Put your **political tax credit** to use



Did you know that you can give up to \$100/couple or \$50/person and get the entire amount back when you do your Oregon income taxes?

Contributions are used to advocate on behalf of member interests.

Help us continue to protect your rights and benefits by contributing to the OPRI PAC. opri.org/donate-to-pac