



**VICKI BERGER
REPRESENTATIVE
OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE DISTRICT 20**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**PERS BILL SAVING \$200 MILLION FIRST BILL TO PASS HOUSE FLOOR
REPRESENTATIVE BERGER VOTES YES ON BILL TO PREVENT PERS BOARD
FROM EXCESSIVE CREDITING OF EMPLOYEE ACCOUNTS**

SALEM – Representative Vicki Berger (R-Salem) took her first official vote on the House Floor today on a bill that will save taxpayers and the state millions of dollars. House Bill 2001, which effectively caps the amount the PERS Board can credit employee accounts, passed out of the House today with a unanimous vote and will now head to the Senate for consideration. HB 2001 is the first in a series of bills the House PERS Committee will examine dealing with reforming PERS.

“House Bill 2001 is a victory for retirees, public employees and taxpayers,” said Rep. Berger. “It’s a positive sign that we were able to get this bill out of the House so early in the process. HB 2001 has bipartisan support as well as support from employee groups. PERS reform is a top priority for Oregonians and the Legislature and that’s why it’s so important that the Legislature immediately act on PERS bills.”

HB 2001 will stop the PERS Board from crediting Tier One accounts over the 8% guarantee until certain stringent conditions are met: The reserve account backing the Tier One guarantee must no longer have a deficit, it must be fully funded for three consecutive calendar years and must ensure a zero balance in the account when all members of Tier One have retired.

Mark O. Johnson, the PERS Actuary from Milliman USA indicated in committee the bill will save employers \$201.8 million in 2003-2005 and \$201.8 million in 2005-2007. The state, as a part of this, will save over \$100 million from the General Fund in the both the 2003-2005 biennium and the 2005-2007 biennium. HB 2001 will reduce the \$14.8 billion Unfunded Actuarial Liability of PERS by nearly \$1 billion.

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