

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 60th Legislature

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| Bill No.: | HB1268 |
| Version: | POLREC |
| Request Number: | 16490 |
| Author: | Rep. Hays |
| Date: | 2/23/2026 |
| Impact: | See Analysis Below |

Research Analysis

The policy committee recommendation for HB1268 establishes a Deferred Option Plan (DOP) within the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) to allow licensed emergency medical personnel, deputy sheriff and county jailers with at least 20 years of service to defer retirement benefits for up to five year while continuing to work.

During participation:

- Employee contributions stop, but employer contributions continue, with half of the 16.5 percent employer contribution going to OPERS and the other half deposited into the member's DOP account; and
- The monthly retirement benefit the member would have received is also credited to the DOP account.

At the end of participation, members may begin receiving their regular monthly retirement benefit and take a lump-sum payout of their DOP account balance, direct the lump sum to an annuity provider or choose another withdrawal method approved by OPERS.

The measure also includes a safe harbor provision allowing the bill to be classified as a nonfiscal retirement measure, thereby exempting it from the requirements of the Oklahoma Pension Legislation Actuarial Analysis Act.

Prepared By: Quyen Do

Fiscal Analysis

HB 1268 adds a deferred retirement option plan (DROP) for EMTs, paramedics, deputy sheriffs and county jailers. The measure includes a safe harbor clause to allow the bill to be treated as a non-fiscal retirement bill and bypass the requirements of the Oklahoma Pension Legislation Actuarial Analysis Act.

According to OPERS, the measure is likely to have an impact on the system. However, as currently written, it does not include an interest provision, making it difficult to estimate the associated cost. OPERS noted that this omission is uncommon, and without it, employees may be less likely to use the benefit.

Prepared By: Alexandra Ladner, House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.

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