

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 13, 2019

TO: Honorable Jennifer Williamson, Chair of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Michael Kron, Special Counsel to the Attorney General

SUBJECT: House Bill 2430 – Public Records Advisory Council

This testimony is presented in support of House Bill 2430.

Background

When the Public Records Advocate position was created in 2017, the Public Records Advisory Council (PRAC) that works with the Advocate was established subject to a sunset clause. However, the Advisory Committee serves numerous important functions. The Council is a stakeholder group that is well-positioned to assist the Advocate in assessing public records policy and developing proposals for legislative consideration.

Concept

HB 2430 allows the Council to continue its important work. At some point, the legislature will probably want to reassess whether it makes sense to continue both the PRAC and the separatelycreated Sunshine Committee. Their focus overlaps significantly. But at this point the two groups are doing different work, and the Attorney General supports this bill.

Contact: Aaron Knott, Legislative Director, aaron.d.knott@doj.state.or.us; (503) 798-0987