

SB 35 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 3/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Exempts Department of Veterans' Affairs from requirement that conservator include vouchers for disbursements in annual accounting to court. Repeals sunset of July 1, 2017, for grant awards for campus veteran resource services. Increases amount of grant that a grantee may use to pay the salary of a campus veteran resource coordinator. Caps biennial payment of expenses for campus veteran resource centers at \$1,200,000 for biennium beginning July 1, 2019.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Conservatorship is a protective proceeding in which a person is found to be either a minor or financially incapable and has money or property that requires management. Financially incapable means a condition in which a person is unable to manage financial resources of the person effectively for reasons that may include illness or disability, but may also be for "chronic intoxication, confinement, detention by a foreign power or disappearance." ORS 125.005(3). "Manage financial resources" means those actions necessary to obtain, administer and dispose of real and personal property, intangible property, business property, benefits and income. ORS 125.005(3). Conservators are required to give an annual accounting to the court detailing the conservator's administration of the protected person's money or properties. Within the annual accounting, a conservator must provide vouchers for disbursements, unless the conservator is a trust company in compliance with ORS 709.030. The Oregon Department of Veterans' Services provides conservator services for veterans with conservators who are experts in managing US Department of Veteran Affairs benefits.

Senate Bill 35 A exempts the ODVA from the requirement to provide vouchers in its annual accounting to the court when serving as a fiduciary. In addition, the measure makes permanent grant programs for campus veteran services, allocates \$1,200,000 towards such programs for the coming biennium, and raises the amount of grant money that can be used for salaries of campus veteran services coordinators.