

SB 35 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

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Meeting Dates: 5/30, 6/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Exempts the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) from the requirement to include vouchers for disbursements in the annual conservator accounting to court. Repeals the January 2, 2020 sunset on the campus veteran resource center grant program. Increases the amount of the grant that a grantee may use to pay the salary of a campus veteran resource coordinator.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Merits of the bill

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Removes Lottery Funds expenditure limitation of \$1,200,000 for implementing and administering grant programs to expand campus veteran resource centers.

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 their own financial resources effectively for reasons that may include illness or disability, but may also include "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 their 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. ODVA provides conservator services for veterans that are determined to be unable to manage their own financial resources and who require experts in managing U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits.

The measure exempts the ODVA from the requirement to provide vouchers in its annual accounting to the court when serving as a conservator consistent with the requirements for trust companies. ODVA conservatorship funds are held at the Oregon State Treasury in a pooled account, and individual client depository statements are not available. Vouchers for negotiated checks are provided by the bank electronically and must be printed for each of ODVA's conservatorship clients. Electronic copies of vouchers will still be retained and would be available upon request. The measure also makes the campus veteran resource center grant program permanent, and increases the amount of grant money that can be used for salaries of campus veteran services coordinators from \$25,000 to \$35,000.