

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 4085 - A

80th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2020 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Allocates an unspecified amount from the Veterans’ Services Fund to Long Term Care Ombudsman for Oregon Public Guardian and Conservator to provide public guardian and conservator services to veterans.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Long Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO), Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Analysis:

HB 4085 A-Engrossed allocates an unspecified amount from the Veterans’ Services Fund to the Long Term Care Ombudsman for the Oregon Public Guardian and Conservator to provide public guardian and conservator services to veterans.

The fiscal impact of this bill is indeterminate depending on the amount of funding to be allocated from the Veterans’ Services Fund to the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO). The Office reports that the Oregon Public Guardian and Conservator (OPGC) program currently has resources to meet only 5-10% of the estimated need for its services statewide, serving 84 protected persons and assisting an additional 10 persons through a contract for public guardian and conservator services, but only for a limited geographical area in or near Clackamas County. Of the 84 individuals currently served by OPGC, 14 are veterans; another 10 veterans are currently on the program’s waitlist. On average, the agency receives approximately 18 requests for guardianship services a month. Currently, OPGC is staffed by the Oregon Public Guardian Conservator, 4 Deputy Public Guardians, and 1 Administrative Assistant. With each additional Deputy Public Guardian position, an additional 20 individuals can be served. As a point of reference, to serve 60 veterans, the agency would require three Deputy Public Guardian positions. The estimated cost of three full-time Deputy Public Guardian positions is \$391,302 (1.50 FTE) for the remainder of the 2019-21 biennium and is \$782,598 (3.00 FTE) for the 2021-23 biennium.

In addition to staffing expenses, note that moneys in the Veterans’ Services Fund are constitutionally dedicated to veterans’ services. If this bill passes, LTCO will need to establish a verification process, as well as to modify its caseload and accounting systems to ensure proper use, tracking, and reporting of funds. At this time the fiscal impact of these activities is indeterminate but expected to be minimal.

Passage of Measure 96 in 2016 dedicated 1.5% of state lottery net proceeds towards veterans’ services beginning July 1, 2017. In the 2019-21 legislatively adopted budget, moneys in the Veterans’ Services Fund are allocated to the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs, Bureau of Labor and Industries, Criminal Justice Commission, and Oregon Health Authority to support veterans’ programs and services.