

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 207

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*Prepared by: Michael Graham
Reviewed by: Paul Siebert
Date: February 28, 2021**Measure Description:**

Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Office of Governor for the purpose of funding the Office of Corrections Ombudsman.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Office of the Governor

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

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

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

General Fund	2021-23 Biennium	2023-25 Biennium
Personal Services	\$812,033	\$928,041
Services and Supplies	194,412	194,412
Total Funds	\$1,006,445	\$1,122,453
Positions	5	5
FTE	4.40	5.00

Analysis:

Since the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic in Oregon, the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) has struggled to manage outbreaks of COVID-19 in the state's prison system. As of February 25, 2021, DOC has reported over 3,500 infections and 42 deaths of adults in custody, and more than 800 infections of DOC employees. As a result, nearly 400 adults in custody have filed habeas corpus actions challenging the conditions of their confinement; and a class action lawsuit has been filed on behalf of the adults in custody who have contracted COVID-19 in the prison system. In light of these difficulties, and in an effort to provide more data, transparency, and accountability to the public, in January 2021, the Emergency Board allocated \$250,000 from the Emergency Fund for the Governor's Office to establish a limited duration ombudsman position through December 2021 to address COVID-19-related investigations and complaint mitigation. According to the job announcement, while the position will be located within the Governor's Office, the ombudsman will not receive any supervision or direction from Governor's Office.

The measure appropriates General Fund to the Office of the Governor in the 2021-23 biennium to provide funding for the Office of the Corrections Ombudsman. The amount of the appropriation, which is currently blank, is in addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation to the Office of the Governor.

To implement the measure, the Governor's Office requests five permanent, full-time positions (4.40 FTE in 2021-23, 5.00 FTE in 2023-25) for the Office of the Corrections Ombudsman. These positions include: one Principal Executive/Manager G (0.88 FTE) to serve as the ombudsman/director; one Operations and Policy Analyst 4 (0.88 FTE) to provide research and policy support to the director; one Executive Support Specialist (0.88 FTE) to manage the office's day-to-day operations; and two Research Analyst 4 positions (1.76 FTE) to process and evaluate communications from adults in custody and their families. The estimated cost to the Governor's Office,

including related services and supplies costs, is \$1,006,445 General Fund in the 2021-23 biennium and \$1,122,453 General Fund in the 2023-25 biennium.

The measure warrants a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for consideration of its impact on the State's General Fund and the Office of the Governor's biennial budget in 2021-23.