

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2230

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office***Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official***

Prepared by: Haylee Morse-Miller
Reviewed by: Gregory Jolivette, Zane Potter
Date: March 8, 2021

Measure Description:

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Long Term Care Ombudsman for purpose of providing 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 are indeterminate at this time - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

HB 2230 includes a blank General Fund appropriation and a blank allocation from the Veterans' Services Fund for the Oregon Public Guardian and Conservator. Funds are to be used by the Long Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) to provide public guardian and conservator services exclusively to veterans. This measure takes effect on the 91st day after the 2021 Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

The fiscal impact of this measure is indeterminate, because the programmatic and budgetary scope of the program is undefined. The following rough projections are meant to serve as a frame of reference to illustrate the legislative direction needed in order to provide a more complete fiscal impact analysis.

Under one potential funding scenario, LTCO could hire three new permanent, full-time Deputy Public Guardian positions (Program Analyst 2s: 2.63 FTE in 2021-23, 3.00 FTE in 2023-25) which would allow the agency to serve 60 veterans. The total cost of these new positions would be \$731,986 total funds in 2021-23, and \$898,550 total funds in 2023-25. Personal Services costs would be \$550,762 total funds in 2021-23, and \$682,945 total funds in 2023-25. Position-related Services and Supplies costs would be \$181,224 total funds in 2021-23, and \$215,605 total funds in 2023-25. These positions are priced at Step 5 based on recent hiring trends, with most Deputy Public Guardians coming into the organization at Step 5 or above. Services and Supplies costs are more significant for LTCO than most other agencies due to higher Attorney General costs in this realm of work, and substantial instate travel costs as Public Guardians must meet face-to-face each month with all clients.

More clarification on staffing levels or the number of clients that should be served by this program, a funding allocation formula, and/or other parameters that define the scope of this program are needed in order to fully formulate a fiscal impact statement. LTCO estimates that there could be between 180 and 360 veterans who could make use of this program, which is based on a percentage of the total number of Oregonians known to need public guardianship; it is unclear if all veterans in need of public guardianship are meant to be served with the passage of this measure. Additionally, this measure includes both a General Fund appropriation and a Lottery Funds allocation, but the numbers included above are listed as total funds since this measure does not specify a funding allocation formula. Generally, Deputy Public Guardian positions are funded with General Fund, but these existing positions serve the general public and not a specific population such as veterans. Until further direction on program parameters is provided, the total cost of this measure remains unknown.

There is no fiscal impact for the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs.