

HB 2230 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management

Action Date: 03/09/21

Action: Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 6-0-0-0

Yeas: 6 - Evans, Grayber, Lewis, Meek, Wallan, Wright

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/2, 3/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates unspecified amounts from the General Fund and the Veterans Services Fund for biennium beginning July 1, 2021, to Long Term Care Ombudsman to provide public guardian and conservator services to veterans. Sets unspecified limit on payment of expenses from lottery dollars allocated from Veterans Services Fund. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Oregon Public Guardian's caseload
- Demand exceeding resources
- Requirements for guardians and conservators
- Person-centered guardianship and advocacy
- Percentage of veterans in current caseload
- Implementation and funding sources

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Office of the Oregon Public Guardian (OPG), established in 2014 pursuant to Senate Bill 1553 within the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman, provides court-appointed guardian and conservatorship services for adults who cannot make decisions necessary to meet their basic needs, when no other alternative is available. Typically, guardians have control over protected persons and may make medical, housing, and other decisions affecting daily life, while conservators generally control property and make financial decisions for protected persons. In Oregon, a protected person must have a conservator if they have assets worth more than \$10,000.

According to the OPG, the need for services is great. The OPG is currently unable to serve any new clients and has not been able to accept new referrals to be waitlisted since July 2019. The OPG's current caseload capacity is approximately 80 clients.

House Bill 2230 appropriates an unspecified amount of money to the Long Term Care Ombudsman, to provide public guardian and conservator services to veterans.