

SB 510 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 2/7, 2/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Public Records Advocate (PRA) to estimate biennial costs to carry out duties on or before January 1 preceding start of biennium, and report to Oregon Department of Administrative Services and Legislative Fiscal Officer. Directs PRA to assess costs to each public body of state government and requires each body to pay costs assessed. Credits assessments to Public Records Advocate Fund. Directs PRA to adopt rules establishing methods for allocating and collecting assessments. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

FISCAL: Anticipated no or minimal impact. Develops a funding mechanism, so warrants a subsequent referral to Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

REVENUE: No revenue impact.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The office of the Public Records Advocate (PRA) was created by Senate Bill 106 (2017). It is an "independent office within the executive department, separate and distinct from any other state agency" (ORS 192.461). The PRA is appointed by the Public Records Advisory Council (ORS 192.481) for a term of four years and may be reappointed to consecutive terms. The PRA appoints a Deputy, to whom the PRA may delegate authority. The PRA and the Deputy must be in good standing with the Oregon State Bar.

The PRA provides facilitated dispute resolution services between public records requesters and custodians, when requested; provides trainings to state agencies and local governments about requirements and best practices for processing and responding to public records requests; and is a voting member of the Public Records Advisory Council.

Senate Bill 510 directs the Public Records Advocate to estimate its biennial costs to carry out its duties on or before the January 1 preceding the start of a biennium, and to assess those costs to public bodies in state government.