

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SB 5520 Long Term Care Ombudsman

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Human Services Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Gelser Blouin

SB 5520 is the budget bill for the Long Term Care Ombudsman, which is a federally mandated consumer protection program supporting a network of certified volunteers to investigate and resolve complaints for people who live in Oregon’s nursing facilities, residential care facilities, assisted living facilities, and adult foster homes.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends a total 2023-25 budget of \$13.3 million and 36 positions (35.50 FTE). This includes \$12.1 million General Fund, and \$1.2 million Federal Funds. The total funds recommendation is a 6.0% increase compared to the current budget, and a 3.4% increase from the 2023-25 Current Service Level, which is mostly driven by standard inflationary adjustments.

The subcommittee approved \$126,180 General Fund to reclassify 23 positions determined to be working out of class and increased Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$306,000 to allow the agency to spend grant money carried over from the current biennium. The grant funds will be used to increase visits to long term care facilities that have not been visited recently due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends SB 5520 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.