SB 208 A   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Weber

Senate Committee On Human Services

Action Date:	02/27/23
Action:	Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)
Vote:	4-0-1-0
Yeas:	4 - Gelser Blouin, Manning Jr, Prozanski, Weber
Exc:	1 - Robinson
Fiscal:	Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue:	No revenue impact
Prepared By:	Iva Sokolovska, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates:	2/15, 2/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Grants courts continuing wardship when permanent guardianship is established until the court terminates the wardship and vacates the guardianship or the ward becomes 21 years old. Permits vacating a permanent guardianship if the ward becomes 21 years of age. Directs parties filing a motion to terminate wardship to serve the motion upon the Department of Human Services.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:
- Work group consensus and discussions on terminating wardships and entities involved in work group discussions
- Biological parents' rights when the child is under a guardianship and/or wardship
- Re-petition process and policies

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Clarifies that the court vacates the guardianship and then enters the order terminating the wardship.

BACKGROUND:

Children in the jurisdiction of a court are called wards of the court (ORS 419B.100). Oregon law allows courts to review, modify, or vacate guardianship orders (ORS 419B.368) if the court determines to do so would be in the child's best interests, the conditions and circumstances giving rise to the establishment of the guardianship have been ameliorated, and the parent is able and willing to adequately care for the child. When modifying or vacating a guardianship, the court must consider at a minimum: the child's emotional and developmental needs; their need to maintain existing attachments and relationships and to form attachments and relationships; the child's health and safety; and the ward's wishes.

Senate Bill 208 A continues a court's wardship if a permanent guardianship has been established until the court vacates the wardship or the child becomes 21 years of age.