



Legislative Fiscal Office
 83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly
 2025 Regular Session

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Bill Title: Relating to the Children's Advocate; prescribing an effective date.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Counties, Oregon Youth Authority, Long Term Care Ombudsman, Department of Human Services, Judicial Department, Oregon Health Authority, Cities, School Districts Public Defense Commission, District Attorneys, Department of Justice, Department of Corrections, Criminal Justice Commission, Department of Education

Summary of Fiscal Impact

2025-27 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Long Term Care Ombudsman	\$ 1,690,722	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,690,722	8	6.00
Department of Human Services	\$ 169,925	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 72,825	\$ 242,750	1	0.75
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ 1,860,647	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 72,825	\$ 1,933,472	9	6.75

2027-29 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Long Term Care Ombudsman	\$ 2,171,944	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,171,944	8	8.00
Department of Human Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	-
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ 2,171,944	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,171,944	8	8.00

- There may be some cost savings if positions are moved from the Department of Human Services to the Long Term Care Ombudsman.

Summary of Revenue Impact

Agency -- Fund Type	2025-27 Biennium	2027-29 Biennium
Department of Human Services -- Other Funds	\$ (264,566)	\$ (293,962)
Long Term Care Ombudsman -- Other Funds	\$ 264,556	\$ 293,962
Total Revenue Impact	\$ -	\$ -

Measure Description

The measure has the following significant provisions:

- The measure moves the office of the Children’s Advocate from the Department of Human Services (DHS) to the Long Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO).
- The measure moves the authority to appoint Critical Response Teams from the Department of Human Services to the Children’s Advocate.
- Establishes the 15-member Children’s Advocacy Advisory Board.

- Establishes the Children’s Advocate Account which is continuously appropriated to the Children’s Advocate for carrying out required activities of the office.
- Makes interfering with the Children’s Advocate a Class A Misdemeanor.

Fiscal Analysis

The fiscal impact of the measure is \$1.9 million total funds and nine positions (6.75 FTE) in 2025-27. Costs increase to \$2.2 million General Fund and eight positions (8.00 FTE) in 2027-29. Currently DHS receives \$1 for every recording of a registered live birth and for each issued certified copy of live birth, this revenue will transfer to LTCO. DHS projects a revenue decrease of \$264,566 Other Funds in 2025-27 and \$293,962 Other Funds in 2027-29, this transfer results in a corresponding increase in revenue for LTCO, which would be available to support costs.

As the Children’s Advocate role transitions to LTCO, some positions currently budgeted within DHS may transfer as well, potentially offsetting costs. However, these positions are only partially dedicated to the office of the Children’s Advocate. Decisions regarding those positions will occur during implementation so any potential cost offset is not considered in this fiscal impact.

Long Term Care Ombudsman

The fiscal impact of the measure on LTCO is \$1.7 million General Fund and eight permanent full-time positions (6.00 FTE). To fully staff the office of the Children’s Advocate, LTCO will require eight positions, the estimated cost for these positions, including personal services and position-related services and supplies costs is \$1.6 million General Fund in 2025-27 and increases to \$2.1 million General Fund in 2027-29 as positions increase to 8.00 FTE. New positions include:

- One Compliance and Regulatory Manager 1 position to serve as the Children’s Advocate and oversee program administration.
- Four Program Analyst 3 positions to serve as deputy advocates and review and investigate complaints.
- One Program Analyst 2 position to lead volunteer recruitment efforts and manage volunteers.
- One Administrative Specialist 2 position for program development and administrative support.
- One Office Specialist 2 position to provide general administrative support.

Additional costs include \$80,250 General Fund for IT, professional services, and Department of Justice costs. LTCO will fund compensation and reimbursement for the 15-member board. Assuming the board receives the current rate of compensation as members of the Residential Ombudsman and Public Guardian Advisory Board of \$775 per biennium, the projected cost for the board is \$5,813 in 2025-27 and \$11,625 in 2027-29.

Department of Human Services

The fiscal impact of the measure on DHS is \$242,750 total funds for one limited duration Project Manager 3 position. This position will assist with the transition of work from DHS to LTCO as well as the separation of policies, procedures, and responsibilities between DHS and LTCO.

Other Entities

The measure has a minimal fiscal impact on District Attorneys, the Oregon Department of Education, the Oregon Judicial Department, and the Public Defense Commission. The measure has no fiscal impact on cities, counties, school districts, the Criminal Justice Commission, the Oregon Youth Authority, the Oregon Health Authority, or the Department of Corrections.

Relevant Dates

The measure takes effect on the 91st day after sine die.

All Children’s Advocacy Advisory Board appointments must be completed by December 1, 2025.

The Children’s Advocacy Board must submit its list of nominees by July 1, 2026.

The Children's Advocate must assume responsibility for Critical Incident review teams by January 1, 2027.