

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

Action: Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 8 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Bonamici, Bruun, Cannon, Flores, Gelser, Kotek, Maurer, Greenlick

Nays: 0

Exc.: Richardson

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/4 (Access sub), 4/13 (Full)

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish, by rule, a program to issue grants of not more than \$100,000 per county per calendar year for the purpose of administering a public guardian or conservator program. Requires counties that wish to qualify to provide at least 25 percent of amount received by DHS.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Role of public guardianship programs
- Examples of situations when a person may have benefited from a guardian
- Counties (Multnomah and Jackson) that currently have public guardianship services
- Structure of the Multnomah County program
- Inability of many non-profit guardianship organizations to accept new referrals
- Cost to families and others that pay for guardianship services
- Current gaps in the system
- Lack of statewide guardian or conservator program

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: According to the National Guardianship Association, a public guardian is a guardian appointed by, and deemed to be an officer of, the court. The person may be appointed to guardianship over many incompetent or incapacitated persons. The appointee may be paid for services from public funds or from assets of the incapacitated person of concern, if such funds are available. A conservatorship is a court order declaring that some property or person is subject to the legal control of another person or entity.