

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Kruse, Metsger, Morse, Westlund, Walker

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Dana Richardson, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/10, 4/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires public bodies to cooperate with and promptly provide information to ombudsman established by law or designated by Governor. Requires persons contracting with public body to cooperate with and promptly provide information to ombudsman investigating matters related to contract. Requires agency or officer of executive department to consult with Attorney General regarding legal disputes related to ombudsman request for information. Provides for confidentiality of information provided to ombudsman and option to decline request for inspection of public records.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Limiting application of measure to ombudsmen established by law
- Including required cooperating from local units of government

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND: Although the term “ombudsman” does not have a statutory definition, Oregon’s executive branch agencies have positions serving under the title “ombudsman”, either by statutory requirement, or by an administrative decision to provide problem-solving services to the agency’s constituency. Among them are: the Corrections Ombudsman; the Long Term Care Ombudsman; the Ombudsman for Injured Workers; the Ombudsman for Small Business; the Mobile Home Park Ombudsman; and federally-required ombudsman services related to the Federal Clean Air Act and for certain clients of the Oregon Health Plan. Positions are appointed by various agency directors, and have different reporting responsibilities.