

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – Senate: Sen. Johnson

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 24 – 0 – 1

House

Yeas: Buckley, Cowan, Freeman, Garrard, Komp, Kotek, McLane, Nathanson, Nolan, Richardson, G. Smith, Thatcher, Whisnant

Nays:

Exc: Beyer

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Devlin, Edwards, Girod, Johnson, Monroe, Nelson, Thomsen, Verger, Whitsett, Winters

Nays:

Exc:

Prepared By: Kim To, Legislative Analyst

Meeting Date: June 10, 2011

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Recreates the Public Guardian and Conservator Task Force. Sunsets Task Force on July 1, 2013. Declares emergency; effective on passage..

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The measure's sunset date

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: In 1971, the Oregon State Legislature enacted ORS 125.700, an enabling statute allowing counties to establish Public Guardian and Conservator Programs. According to the Department of Human Services there is a need in Oregon for adoption of professional standards for guardians and conservators, and for coordination and oversight of statewide program standards. The Task Force was created through the passage of House Bill 2883 (2009) which was repealed on January 10, 2011.

Under the original Task Force, the Senate, the House of Representatives, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Board of Governors of the Oregon State Bar each were authorized to appoint a member, and the Governor appointed sixteen members representing various disability rights, social service and advocacy organizations.

The Task Force was charged with studying the need and providing comprehensive recommendations to the Legislative Assembly about public guardian and conservator services in Oregon. Specifically, the recommendations were to address: (a) providing guardianship and conservator services to those not served by the private sector and those who cannot afford such services; (b) models of like programs with quality and cost effective approaches for delivering such services; (c) the need, efficacy, duration and resources required to establish and evaluate procedures for interim pilot programs; (d) reviewing Oregon's existing public guardian and conservator laws and recommending legislative changes where needed; (e) evaluating the need for a permanent commission authorized to allocate funds to projects; (f) reviewing potential alternative public and private funding sources to finance programs and projects.