

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Knopp, Kruse, Shields, Steiner Hayward, Monnes Anderson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/4, 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs the Governor to appoint an Oregon Public Guardian and Conservator in the office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman to provide public guardian and conservator services for persons without relatives or friends willing or able to serve as guardians or conservators. Creates the Partnership Fund and specifies the Long-Term Care Ombudsman's office duties and responsibilities. Clarifies partnership between Long-Term Care Ombudsman and Residential Facilities Advisory Committee. Specifies staffing responsibilities Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Adults lacking the capacity to make personal medical and financial decisions
- Importance of Public Guardian programs
- Public Guardian and Conservator Task Force
- Increasing demands for assistance
- Proposed amendments

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Clarifies partnership between Long-Term Care Ombudsman and Residential Facilities Advisory Committee. Specifies staffing responsibilities.

BACKGROUND: Guardianship and conservatorship are court-ordered protections that are ordered for those not capable of protecting themselves. When a court finds that a person is incapable of making decisions about his or her own basic health, safety, and financial needs, such that serious physical injury or illness is likely to occur, a guardianship or conservatorship may be ordered. The basis for incapacity may stem from severe mental health conditions, developmental disabilities, and age-related conditions.

During the 2013 Legislative Session, House Bill 2671 would have established the Office of the Public Guardian and Conservator within the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman to provide public guardian and conservator services.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.