

**SB 1553**

**Relating to services for persons with inadequate resources**

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SB 1553 establishes the Public Guardian and Conservator within the office of the 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. Services are person-specific and range from making care decisions to handling financial issues.

For the 2013-15 biennium, the program is projected to cost about \$950,000 General Fund and is supported by four positions. Since the program begins mid-biennium, it will have phase-in costs for 2015-17.

The Subcommittee amendment eliminates the partnership fund and clarifies that persons receiving assistance are those who are eligible for program services. It also removes the blank appropriation clause, since the bill's cost will be covered by a General Fund appropriation in the session's budget reconciliation bill.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends Senate Bill 1553 be amended and reported out do pass, as amended.