

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Doherty
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Dembrow

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure as Amended and as Printed B-Engrossed

Vote: 25 – 0 – 1

House

Yeas: Barker, Buckley, Frederick, Freeman, Hanna, Huffman, Jensen, Komp, McLane, Nathanson, Read, Richardson, Tomei, Williamson

Nays:

Exc: Smith

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Devlin, Edwards, Girod, Hansell, Johnson, Monroe, Steiner Hayward, Thomsen, Whitsett, Winters

Nays:

Exc:

Prepared By: Laurie Byerly, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: February 28, 2014

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes the office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) to appoint, in consultation with the Residential Facilities Advisory Committee, the Oregon Public Guardian and Conservator (PG) to provide public guardian and conservator services to individuals who do not have relatives or friends willing or able to assume duties of guardianship or conservatorship and who lack the financial resources to obtain these services.

Along with providing guardian and conservator services, the program will set professional standards for and certify guardians and conservators, produce training materials, develop a volunteer program to assist the guardians and conservators, establish an eligibility process for program services, and work with local programs and organization to provide services.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Critical need, importance of program
- Partnerships and coordination with local organizations
- Big job for a small agency; need to make sure resources and support are adequate
- Helping some of the state's most vulnerable citizens

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Eliminates the partnership fund and clarifies that persons receiving assistance are those who are eligible for program services. Also removes the blank appropriation clause.

BACKGROUND: In 2009, House Bill 2883 established the Public Guardian and Conservator Task Force. The Task Force was mandated to review public guardianship and provide comprehensive recommendations to the Legislature about Public Guardian and Conservator services in Oregon. In 2011, House Bill 2237 established the Joint Interim Task Force on Public Guardian and Conservator who continued the work of the Task Force originally established in 2009.

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.