

## Legislative Fiscal Office

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## Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Sen. Richard Devlin, Senate Co-Chair  
Rep. Nancy Nathanson, House Co-Chair

Sen. Betsy Johnson, Senate Co-Vice Chair  
Sen. Jackie Winters, Senate Co-Vice Chair  
Rep. Dan Rayfield, House Co-Vice Chair  
Rep. Greg Smith, House Co-Vice Chair

**To:** Ways and Means Full Committee

**From:** Human Services Subcommittee

**Re:** HB 5021 Long Term Care Ombudsman

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**Senator Winters:** “HB 5021 is the budget bill for the Long Term Care Ombudsman. The agency recruits and trains local volunteers to help it identify, investigate, and resolve non-abuse complaints made by, or on behalf of, residents in care facilities. It is also responsible for providing public guardian and conservator services to individuals who do not have relatives or friends willing or able to assume those duties.

The Human Services Subcommittee approved a total budget of \$7.2 million, including \$6.2 million General Fund and 24.50 FTE. The budget is a 3% increase from the 2015-17 legislatively approved budget.

The recommendation removes of \$600,000 General Fund from the public guardian program and sets \$200,000 of that reduction aside in a special purpose appropriation for potential future allocation to the program. A related budget note directs the agency to assess the program and report back to the Legislature.

The agency’s performance measures were approved.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends HB 5021 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.”