



Open Government Impact Statement

80th Oregon Legislative Assembly
2019 Regular Session

Measure: SB 605

Only impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official

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SUMMARY

Establishes office of State Ombudsman. Provides for State Ombudsman to be appointed by vote of Legislative Assembly. Authorizes State Ombudsman to investigate administrative acts of executive department agencies and make recommendations to agency and Legislative Assembly.

Directs State Ombudsman to report annually to Governor, Legislative Assembly and public.

OPEN GOVERNMENT IMPACT

Legislative Counsel has not adopted standards for drafting measures that establish exemptions from disclosure of public records.

This measure exempts from public disclosure records the State Ombudsman receives that are confidential in the hands of the legal custodian of the records. It also exempts from public disclosure matters related to complaints and investigations conducted by the State Ombudsman including, but not limited to, identities of complainants and witnesses. Finally, the measure exempts from public disclosure any conclusion or recommendation that the State Ombudsman makes available to an agency to facilitate a reply unless it has been publicly released by the State Ombudsman.

If those public records that could be subject to public disclosure were instead subject to mandatory disclosure under public records law, the public could receive additional information regarding complaints and investigations of administrative acts of executive department agencies performed by the State Ombudsman, but it would create a disincentive for whistleblowers to voluntarily share information.