

SB 1036 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

Action Date: 04/09/19

Action: Do pass with amendments. Refer to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng).

Vote: 4-0-1-0

Yeas: 4 - Gelser, Heard, Knopp, Monnes Anderson

Exc: 1 - Fagan

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Jamie Hinsz, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/4, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Foster Child Ombudsman and Foster Parent Ombudsman and specifies duties and powers of both. Requires 24-hour telephone hotline for foster parent complaints. Requires Department of Human Services (DHS) to notify foster parents and foster children of both ombudsmen to investigate complaints. Modifies duties and powers of Long Term Care Ombudsman, Residential Facilities Ombudsman, and Oregon Public Guardian and Conservator. Includes licensed conversion facilities in definition of "long term care facility." Allows ombudsmen access to records necessary for investigating complaints, subject to specified conditions. Establishes Office of Oregon Ombudsmen and Advocates to provide administrative support to: Long Term Care Ombudsman, Residential Facilities Ombudsman, Foster Parent Ombudsman, Foster Child Ombudsman, and Oregon Public Guardian and Conservator. Specifies duties of administrator and establishes corresponding account separate from General Fund. Establishes advisory committees for ombudsman offices and office of the Oregon Public Guardian and Conservator. Entitles members of advisory committees to compensation and expenses. Allows ombudsmen to be removed for just cause upon recommendation of respective advisory committee to the Governor. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Allows ombudsmen to be removed for just cause upon recommendation of the respective advisory committee to the Governor. Includes licensed conversion facilities in definition of "long term care facility." Entitles members of advisory committees to compensation and expenses. Refines language modifying duties and powers of Residential Facilities Ombudsman. Includes "Advocates" in name of administrative support office.

BACKGROUND:

An ombudsman is an official appointed to advocate on behalf of others and investigate complaints. The Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) is an independent state agency that serves long-term care facility residents through complaint investigation, resolution, and advocacy for improvements in care. The mission of the LTCO is to enhance the quality of life, improve the level of care, protect the individual's rights and promote the dignity of each person residing in a long-term care facility. Within the LTCO is the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, the Oregon Public Guardian, and the Residential Facilities Ombudsman.

Senate Bill 1036 A establishes a Foster Child Ombudsman and a Foster Parent Ombudsman, as well as an Office of Oregon Ombudsmen and Advocates to provide administrative support to all ombudsmen offices, including the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Residential Facilities Ombudsman, and the Oregon Public Guardian and Conservator. The measure also modifies the duties and powers of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Residential

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Facilities Ombudsman, and the Oregon Public Guardian and Conservator, and allows ombudsmen access to records necessary to investigate complaints, subject to specific conditions. Finally, Senate Bill 1036 A establishes advisory committees for LTCO and for the ombudsmen, and entitles members of advisory committees to compensation and expenses.