



Open Government Impact Statement

80th Oregon Legislative Assembly
2020 Regular Session

Measure: SB 1506

Only impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official

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SUMMARY

Establishes Public Records Advocate as independent office within executive department. Authorizes Public Records Advisory Council to appoint advocate. Authorizes council to support or oppose legislation relating to public records law and to request legislators to introduce legislation relating to public records law. Ratifies and affirms actions taken by council before effective date of Act to recruit and appoint advocate.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

OPEN GOVERNMENT IMPACT

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

This measure changes how the Public Records Advocate is appointed and removed from office. Currently, the Public Records Advocate is appointed by the Governor, from a panel of three individuals nominated by the Public Records Advisory Council, and confirmed by the Senate. The Public Records Advocate can be removed by the Governor for cause or upon motion of the council with the consent of the Governor. Under this measure the Public Records Advocate would be appointed by the council without Senate confirmation. Only the council would be able to remove the Public Records Advocate for cause.

This measure also allows the council to elect a chair and vice chair rather than making the Public Records Advocate the ex-officio chair. It allows the council to request legislators to introduce legislation relating to public records and to support or oppose legislation relating to public records. Finally, the measure makes the Public Records Advocate the custodian of council records.

This measure does not impact public interests in disclosure that would be served if public records were subject to mandatory disclosure.