

HB 2230 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/2, 3/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates unspecified amounts from the General Fund and the Veterans Services Fund for biennium beginning July 1, 2021, to Long Term Care Ombudsman to provide public guardian and conservator services to veterans. Sets unspecified limit on payment of expenses from lottery dollars allocated from Veterans Services Fund. Takes effect the 91st day after *sine die*.

Subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

REVENUE: *No revenue impact*

FISCAL: *Fiscal impact issued*

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- OPG is a small program; 90 clients served currently
- Lack of resources to meet full demand
- Requirements for guardians and conservators
- Person centered guardianship and advocacy
- Eleven percent of current caseload are veterans
- Implementation of HB 2230
- Where funding would come from

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Office of the Oregon Public Guardian (OPG), established in 2014 pursuant to Senate Bill 1533 within the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman, provides court-appointed guardian and conservatorship services for adults who cannot make decisions necessary to meet their basic needs, when no other alternative is available. Typically, guardians have control over protected persons and may make medical, housing, and other decisions affecting daily life, while conservators generally control property and make financial decisions for protected persons. In Oregon, a protected person must have a conservator if they have assets worth more than \$10,000.

The need for services is great. The OPG is currently unable to serve any new clients and has not been able to accept new referrals to be waitlisted since July 2019. The OPG's current case load capacity is approximately 80 clients.

House Bill 2230 appropriates an unspecified amount of money to the Long Term Care Ombudsman, to provide public guardian and conservator services to veterans.