

Legislative Fiscal Office

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Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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Paul Siebert, Deputy Legislative Fiscal Officer (Audit/IT)

To: General Government Subcommittee

From: Paul Siebert, Legislative Fiscal Office

Date: June 10, 2021

Subject: SB 500 – Relating to the Public Records Advisory Council.
Work Session Recommendations

SB 500 creates the office of the Public Records Advocate (PRA) as an independent office within the executive branch. The measure changes the appointing authority for the PRA from the Governor to the Public Records Advisory Council. Instead of the PRA serving as the Council chair the measure authorizes the Council to elect a chair and vice chair. The Council may support or oppose legislation relating to public records law. The Council may also request legislators to introduce legislation relating to public records law. The PRA shall serve as the custodian of all the Council records. The measure establishes the Public Records Advocate Fund. Moneys in the Fund are continuously appropriated to the Office of the Public Records Advocate for operations of the Office and the Council.

The Legislative Fiscal Office assumes that upon passage of this bill the Public Records Advocate will be an independent agency housed within DAS. DAS will continue to provide the PRA support services such as human resources and financial services support. As part of the 2023-25 budget development cycle, a budget for the PRA will be created that requests the resources necessary for the agency to stop being housed in DAS and include a proposal to fund the work of the PRA, which could include General Fund support.

The measure previously had a hearing in the Senate Committee on Labor and Business on 2/11/2021 and 3/2/2021 and was reported out with a do pass recommendation.

Final Subcommittee Action

LFO recommends that SB 500 be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee.

Carriers

Full Committee: _____

House Floor: _____

Senate Floor: _____