

## 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:** Zane Potter, Legislative Fiscal Office

**Date:** June 15, 2021

**Subject:** HB 3373– Relating to taxpayers  
Work Session Recommendations

House Bill 3373 establishes the Taxpayer Advocate Office within the Department of Revenue (DOR). The Taxpayer Advocate, which is subject to all confidentiality and disclosure provisions applicable to DOR, must help taxpayers understand the policies and procedures available to them when resolving problems related to tax programs or debt collection programs administered by DOR.

The Taxpayer Advocate may issue orders related to taxpayers experiencing significant hardship due to DOR action. Orders issued by the Taxpayer Advocate may require DOR to cease action or refrain from additional action based upon a finding of significant hardship by the Taxpayer Advocate. The measure authorizes the DOR director or deputy director to review or rescind an order by the Taxpayer Advocate. If the director or deputy director modifies such an order, the director or deputy director must provide a written explanation to the Taxpayer Advocate. No later than February 15 of every odd-numbered year, the Taxpayer Advocate must submit a report to a committee of the Legislative Assembly regarding its operations.

To create this office, DOR estimates the fiscal impact of this measure to be \$571,682 total funds, including \$371,593 General Fund, and 3 positions (2.33 FTE) for the 2021-23 Biennium. Responsibilities of these positions include office supervision, researching Oregon tax law and reviewing taxpayers' disputes with DOR and customer support to taxpayers.

The measure previously had hearings in the House Committee Revenue on 4/5/2021, 4/22/2021, 5/25/2021, and 5/27/2021 and was reported out with a do pass recommendation as amended. The fiscal impact statement is available on OLIS.

**Recommended Changes**

LFO recommends adoption of the -A3 amendment, which provides a General Fund appropriation of \$371,593 and Other Funds expenditure limitation increase of \$200,089 to establish the Taxpayer Advocate Office.

**Final Subcommittee Action**

LFO recommends that HB 3373, as amended by the -A3 amendment, be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee.

**Carriers**

Full Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

House Floor: \_\_\_\_\_

Senate Floor: \_\_\_\_\_