

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

**Measure: SB 500 - A <REVISED>**

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session  
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed  
Versions are Considered Official*

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**Measure Description:**

Establishes Public Records Advocate as independent office.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:**

Department of Administrative Services (DAS)

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

Costs related to the measure is anticipated to the minimal - See explanatory analysis.

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**Analysis:**

SB 500 creates the office of the Public Records Advocate (PRA) as an independent office within the executive branch, separate and distinct from any other state agency. 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 measure ratifies and affirms any actions taken by the Council to recruit and appoint the PRA prior to its effective date. Because the measure contains an emergency clause and takes effect on passage, this fiscal analysis assumes the Office of the Public Records Advocate will become independent for the 2021-23 biennium but housed in the Department of Administrative Services.

Currently, the Office of the Public Records Advocate is budgeted within the office of the DAS Chief Operating Officer (COO). The cost of the PRA is paid for with Other Funds through assessments. The 2021-23 budget for the Office of the Public Records Advocate is \$691,625 Other Funds and 2 positions (2.00 FTE).

The Legislative Fiscal Office assumes that upon passage of this bill, for the 2021-23 biennium only, the Public Records Advocate will be an independent agency housed within DAS. DAS will continue to provide the PRA facilities and 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 provides sufficient resources 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.