

SB 208 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

Prepared By: Iva Sokolovska, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Grants courts continuing wardship when permanent guardianship is established until the court terminates the wardship and vacates the guardianship or the ward becomes 21 years old. Permits vacating a permanent guardianship if the ward becomes 21 years of age. Directs parties filing a motion to terminate wardship to serve the motion upon the department.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Children in the jurisdiction of a court are called wards of the court (ORS 419B.100). Oregon law allows courts to review, modify, or vacate guardianship orders (ORS 419B.368) if the court determines to do so would be in the child's best interests, the conditions and circumstances giving rise to the establishment of the guardianship have been ameliorated, and the parent is able and willing to adequately care for the child. When modifying or vacating a guardianship, the court must consider at a minimum: the child's emotional and developmental needs; their need to maintain existing attachments and relationships and to form attachments and relationships; the child's health and safety; and the ward's wishes.

Senate Bill 208 would continue a court's wardship if a permanent guardianship has been established until the court vacates the wardship or the ward becomes 21 years of age.