

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SB 510 Relating to the Public Records Advocate

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: General Government Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Smith

SB 510 codifies the current practice of using an assessment to charge state agencies for services provided by the Office of the Public Records Advocate to recoup its costs.

The 2017 Legislative Assembly established the role of the Public Records Advocate housed in the Department of Administrative Services - also known as DAS - and appropriated General Fund for the 2017-19 biennium to support this new statewide function. For the 2019-21 biennium, DAS proposed using an assessment for the Public Records Advocate instead of continuing with a fully General Fund budget. This proposal was approved as part of the DAS 2019-21 budget. The 2021 Legislative Assembly required the Office of the Public Records Advocate to be an independent office. Although DAS has the statutory authority to charge an assessment on behalf of the Office, by moving the Public Records Advocate out of the DAS budget, the Public Records Advocate, as a newly independent agency, does not have this authority.

This measure provides the Office with this authority, so that its functions can continue to be funded with the current practice assessment.

The General Government Subcommittee recommends SB 510 be reported out do pass.