

## Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB 94

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Head

**3. Committee:** Health, Welfare and Institutions

**4. Title:** Public Guardianship and Conservator Ombudsman Office; established

**5. Summary:** This legislation directs the Commissioner of the Department for Aging and Rehabilitation Services (DARS) to establish a Public Guardianship and Conservator Ombudsman Office to (i) assist members of the public in understanding the public guardianship process and make available to the public information regarding public guardianship, including the rights and responsibilities of public guardians and individuals subject to public guardianship; (ii) provide information to the public regarding local and regional public guardian and conservator programs in the Commonwealth; (iii) receive complaints regarding public guardians, provide referrals to public and private agencies and other entities for assistance in resolving the issue giving rise to the complaint, and provide information regarding how to navigate the complaint process; and (iv) collect data regarding the number of inquiries and complaints received, the types of assistance provided, and the disposition of the matter, if known. The bill directs the Department to make information regarding the Office available on its website and to disseminate information regarding the Office to all adults for whom a public guardian is appointed and all adults residing in various congregate care settings.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary

**Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2023	\$263,175	General
2024	\$263,175	General
2025	\$263,175	General
2026	\$263,175	General
2027	\$263,175	General
2028	\$263,175	General
2029	\$263,175	General

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The proposed legislation requires DARS to establish a new Public Guardianship and Conservator Ombudsman Office, which is estimated to cost \$263,175 annually. This estimate assumes a salary of \$130,000 for program manager and office services specialist positions. The associated benefit cost for these positions is estimated at

\$53,175 and the nonpersonal services costs is expected to be approximately \$80,000 each year.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:**

Department for Aging and Rehabilitation Services

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None