

Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB 96

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 guardian and conservator program; decennial review of staff-to-client ratios, report

5. Summary: This legislation directs the Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) to decennially review the ideal range of staff-to-client ratios for local and regional public guardian and conservator programs in the Commonwealth and make recommendations as to whether the ratio should be revised to ensure that public guardians are able to meet their obligations to incapacitated persons. The bill requires DARS to report its findings and conclusions by December 1 of each year in which such review is performed and directs DARS to complete the first decennial review and submit its report by December 1, 2022.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No. The introduced budget includes \$75,000 in FY 2023 for DARS to perform an in-depth study of the public guardianship program. It is assumed that the scope of this study could include a review of optimal staff-to-client ratios. As such, no budget amendment or additional funding is required outside of what is already included in the introduced budget.

7. Minimal Fiscal Impact (See Item 8)

8. Fiscal Implications: The Public Guardianship and Conservator Program currently has one full time employee and does not have the necessary available resources to perform the staffing review as required by the legislation. Should this legislation be passed, DARS estimates that it could require \$25,000 to \$50,000 to hire a contractor with the necessary background to assist the program with developing the required report. However, DARS was provided funding in the introduced budget to contract with a research entity to evaluate many aspects of public guardianship services across the Commonwealth over the next five years and provide program recommendations. The examination of staffing ratios required by this bill could be included in this study.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:
Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None