

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7286**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1178

**NOTE PREPARED:** Feb 5, 2004

**BILL AMENDED:** Jan 29, 2004

**SUBJECT:** Volunteer Advocates for Seniors and Guardians.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Avery

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Passed House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**  GENERAL  
 DEDICATED  
 FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill permits a court to appoint a volunteer advocate for seniors ("volunteer") to represent and protect for a limited period the interests of an incapacitated or protected person who is at least 55 years of age. The bill requires a volunteer to report to the court and make recommendations regarding the incapacitated or protected person. The bill also provides civil immunity for a volunteer, a volunteer advocate for seniors program, and a guardian.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2004.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** This bill allows the courts to appoint a volunteer advocate for an individual who is (a) incapacitated, or (b) a protected person who is at least fifty-five years of age. The volunteer advocate shall be appointed for a period of 60 days. Following this, the court may extend the appointment for a period of time to be determined by the court. The number of individuals that would be appointed a volunteer advocate is currently unknown [Note: This fiscal note will be updated when additional information becomes available].

The court may appoint an attorney to represent the volunteer advocate. This could potentially increase expenditures for the state, however, any increases are likely small. The number of volunteer advocates falling under this provision are likely minimal. Actual increases in expenditures are dependent on the number of volunteer advocates that are appointed attorneys.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:** Courts.

**Information Sources:**

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