

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7286

BILL NUMBER: HB 1178

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 25, 2004

BILL AMENDED: Feb 19, 2004

SUBJECT: Volunteer Advocates for Seniors and Guardians.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Avery

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Dillon

BILL STATUS: As Passed Senate

FUNDS AFFECTED: X 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. It 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, upon petition by the volunteer or upon the court's own motion, 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

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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