

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 57th Legislature

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| Bill No.: | SB931 |
| Version: | ENGR |
| Request Number: | |
| Author: | Miller |
| Date: | 3/21/2019 |
| Impact: None; existing funds to be used | |

Research Analysis

SB 931 creates the Veterans' Volunteer Guardianship Act. The measure allows for courts to appoint volunteer guardians to veterans. These guardians must comply with guardianship provisions currently in statute. The measure directs the chief judge of each district court to review each guardianship case appointed prior to November 1, 2019 by November 1, 2020.

A court may appoint a guardian or limited guardian to represent an incapacitated or partially incapacitated veteran. The veteran must be receiving disability compensation from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or SNAP benefits in order to be eligible. The measure outlines the eligibility requirements of the volunteer guardian being that the volunteer guardian must be an individual, be a resident of Oklahoma, not be related to the veteran, not be barred from serving as a fiduciary, waive any compensation, and comply with additional rules set forth by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs.

Prior to appointment as a guardian, the person must provide a bond in an amount determined by the value of the intangible personal property or as determined by the court, rounded to the nearest \$100. The court may waive or reduce the bond if the guardian's authority does not include property management. The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs will reimburse the guardian for the bond.

The measure requires the court to notify the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs of any guardianship proceeding involving a veteran receiving or eligible for benefits. Further, the measure prohibits the court from charging any costs related to guardianship cases to veterans receiving disability compensation.

Prepared By: Anna Rouw

Fiscal Analysis

SB 931 has no fiscal implications to the state. Existing funds will be used to finance the program as needed.

Prepared By: Stacy Johnson

Other Considerations

None.

