



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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**ENVIRONMENTAL OMBUDSMAN**

**House Bill 4628  
Sponsor: Rep. Thomas Scott  
Committee: Appropriations**

**Complete to 1-20-94**

**A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4628 AS INTRODUCED 4-21-93**

The bill would create the Office of the Environmental Ombudsman within the Legislative Council. Additionally, it would call for the appointment of an environmental ombudsman to serve as the principal executive officer for a nonrenewable 6-year term, specify the ombudsman's duties and responsibilities, and provide funding and staffing for the office. House Bill 4028 is tie-barred to bills that have not yet been introduced.

With regard to the state's system of environmental protection and natural resource management, the ombudsman would perform the following duties:

- \*\* Act on behalf and assist individuals with concerns to the appropriate state agency.**
- \*\* Assist the public in gaining access to the decision making process.**
- \*\* Assist the public in receiving timely responses to questions.**
- \*\* Recommend to state agencies and the legislature ways to improve public participation in the decision making process.**
- \*\* Make available a list of all citizen advisory committees within state agencies that are involved with environmental or natural resource management issues.**
- \*\* Serve as a liaison between the public and the appropriate state agencies.**

**House Bill 4628 (1-20-94)**