

Committee on Children

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1368

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE.

Vote Date: 3/6/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/27/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Committee on Children

REASONS FOR BILL:

SB 1368 intends to make technical changes to the statutes regarding the Office of the Child Advocate.

The S language changes much of the bill to include language provided by the Office of the Child Advocate. The language seeks to address issues with the state Probate Court and the process of obtaining guardianship. This includes the recommendation of a working group to review the process as it relates with DCF including but not limited to petitions, DCF caseworker assignments, moving certain matters to the Regional Children's Probate Courts, service, and guideline requirements for attorney's participating in the Children's Probate Court, and overall review of statutes relating to guardianship and Probate Court.

The language also includes amending language so that the court is to give notice of the hearing prior to the date that includes information on how to make a careline report, differences between Probate Court and Superior Court, differences in financial support of child under guardianship and foster care and similarly the differences of DCF involvement between the two types of care.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Connecticut Office of the Probate Court Administrator, Probate Court Administrator, Beverly K. Streit](#): offers technical changes to section 1 of the S language of the bill to clarify the intent of the working group to review statutes and procedures related to the guardianship of a child. They also add that they oppose sections 2 and 3 of the S language they mention the extensive notices already provided by the Probate Court and they further explain the notices

already in place, they say that the additional notices make adversely impact the right of parents by diluting the notice of having the right to have an attorney present. They end that they look forward to continuing to work with the OCA.

[Connecticut Office of the Child Advocate, Acting Child Advocate, Christina D. Ghio, CWLS:](#) supports this bill and reminds that this language and concern became highlighted when a child was abused by an appointed guardian through the probate court. They go on to review the changes and recommendations that is included in the language.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Access Community Action Agency, Kathleen Krider:](#) supports this bill and the intent to end child poverty.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Christian Talarski

Date: 3/12/2025