

Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1501

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING PROBATE COURT OPERATIONS.

Vote Date: 4/4/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/31/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Judiciary Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The annual bill comes from the Probate Court requesting minor technical, conforming changes to the Probate Court statutes.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Hon. Beverly Streit, Probate Court Administrator: Judge Streit testified in support of the bill as sections 1-6 offer technical changes to probate court statutes to the betterment of the probate court system and the public which they serve. She does have concerns regarding the possible lack of resources the Office of the Probate Court Administrator has to conduct an effective working group, as well as concerns regarding the January 15, 2026 deadline for submission of the proposed report.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Connecticut Hospital Association: The Connecticut Hospital Association supports this legislation and asks that the bill include hospital representatives in the working group established in Section 7; they feel this inclusion would be beneficial as the areas of focus for the working group are of keen interest to hospitals.

Sarah Parker McKernan, Policy Advocate, Connecticut Legal Services: They support this legislation, and would like to see the addition of language in section 7 that would include Connecticut's long term care ombudsman in the working group established. They believe it will strengthen the perspective of the elderly and disabled regarding the issues being studied.

Vincenzo Gallo, Esq.: He testified in support of Section 7 of this legislation because it would serve as a vital forum for experts, practitioners, and stakeholders to assess current practices and recommended targeted reforms; this is necessary because it addresses the issues of compensation for conservators, as well as addresses the issue of delays in Medicaid eligibility benefits.

Alinor Sterling, President, CT Trial Lawyers Association: She testified in support of this legislation, specifically section 8, because it will prevent liability insurers from avoiding responsibility for covered, meritorious claims by a tort victim simply because the wrongdoer who causes their injury passes away and a probate claim was not rejected in accordance with probate deadlines. They believe section 8 will protect the estate from excess liability for tort claims unless the statutory notice is given.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Kristian Exner, Esq.: He testified in opposition to the bill and believes that this legislation must contain legal protections and liability releases for conservators. He urged the following statutory protections for conservators: qualified immunity, access to state-funded liability insurance and limits on civil liability.

Reported by: Griffin Olshan

Date: April 7, 2025