



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Committee Bill No. 6183

LCO No. 4252



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CHILD
ADVOCATE.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 46a-13k of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 (a) There is established, within the Office of Governmental
4 Accountability established under section 1-300, an Office of the Child
5 Advocate. The [Governor] advisory committee established pursuant to
6 section 46a-13r, as amended by this act, with the approval of the General
7 Assembly, shall appoint a person with knowledge of the child welfare
8 system and the legal system to fill the Office of the Child Advocate. Such
9 person shall be qualified by training and experience to perform the
10 duties of the office as set forth in section 46a-13l. Upon any vacancy in
11 the position of Child Advocate, the advisory committee [established
12 pursuant to section 46a-13r] shall meet to consider and interview
13 successor candidates and shall [submit to the Governor a list of not
14 fewer than three and not more than five of the most outstanding
15 candidates, not later than sixty days after the occurrence of said vacancy,
16 except that upon any vacancy in said position occurring after January 1,

17 2012, but before June 15, 2012, the advisory committee shall submit such
18 list to the Governor on or before July 31, 2012. Such list shall rank the
19 candidates in the order of committee preference. Not later than eight
20 weeks after receiving the list of candidates from the advisory committee,
21 the Governor shall] designate a candidate for Child Advocate from
22 among [the choices on such list. If at any time any of the candidates
23 withdraw from consideration prior to confirmation by the General
24 Assembly, the designation shall be made from the remaining candidates
25 on the list submitted to the Governor. If, not later than eight weeks after
26 receiving the list, the Governor fails to designate a candidate from the
27 list, the candidate ranked first shall receive the designation and be
28 referred to the General Assembly for confirmation] such candidates. If
29 the General Assembly is not in session, the designated candidate shall
30 serve as acting Child Advocate and be entitled to the compensation,
31 privileges and powers of the Child Advocate until the General
32 Assembly meets to take action on said appointment. The person
33 appointed Child Advocate shall serve for a term of four years and may
34 be reappointed or shall continue to hold office until such person's
35 successor is appointed and qualified. Upon any vacancy in the position
36 of Child Advocate and until such time as a candidate has been
37 confirmed by the General Assembly or, if the General Assembly is not
38 in session, has been designated by the [Governor] advisory committee,
39 the Associate Child Advocate shall serve as the acting Child Advocate
40 and be entitled to the compensation, privileges and powers of the Child
41 Advocate.

42 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes, the
43 Child Advocate shall act independently of any state department in the
44 performance of the advocate's duties.

45 (c) The Child Advocate may, within available funds, appoint such
46 staff as may be deemed necessary. [provided, for the fiscal years ending
47 June 30, 1996, and June 30, 1997, such staff shall not exceed one and one-
48 half full-time positions or the equivalent thereof.] The duties of the staff
49 may include the duties and powers of the Child Advocate if performed

50 under the direction of the Child Advocate.

51 (d) The General Assembly shall annually appropriate such sums as
52 necessary for the payment of the salaries of the staff and for the payment
53 of office expenses and other actual expenses incurred by the Child
54 Advocate in the performance of his or her duties. Any legal or court fees
55 obtained by the state in actions brought by the Child Advocate shall be
56 deposited in the General Fund.

57 (e) The Child Advocate shall annually submit, in accordance with the
58 provisions of section 11-4a, to the Governor, the joint standing
59 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
60 relating to the judiciary, children and human services and the advisory
61 committee established pursuant to section 46a-13r, as amended by this
62 act, a detailed report analyzing the work of the Office of the Child
63 Advocate.

64 Sec. 2. Section 46a-13r of the general statutes is repealed and the
65 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

66 (a) There is established an advisory committee to the Office of the
67 Child Advocate established under section 46a-13k, as amended by this
68 act. Said committee shall, [prepare and submit to the Governor a list of
69 candidates for appointment of] with the approval of the General
70 Assembly, appoint the Child Advocate. The advisory committee shall
71 consist of seven members as follows: (1) One appointed by the president
72 pro tempore of the Senate; (2) one appointed by the speaker of the House
73 of Representatives; (3) one appointed by the majority leader of the
74 Senate; (4) one appointed by the majority leader of the House of
75 Representatives; (5) one appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;
76 (6) one appointed by the minority leader of the House of
77 Representatives; and (7) one appointed by the Governor. The committee
78 shall select a chairperson who shall preside at meetings of the
79 committee. No member of the advisory committee shall be a person who
80 is a volunteer for, a board member of, or is employed by, any entity or
81 agency subject to the review of, or evaluation or monitoring by the Child

82 Advocate pursuant to section 46a-13l, or is a communicator lobbyist
83 who pursuant to such lobbyist's registration under chapter 10, lobbies
84 on behalf of any entity or agency subject to the review of, or evaluation
85 or monitoring by the Child Advocate pursuant to said section 46a-13l.
86 Each member of the advisory committee shall serve a term of five years
87 and may be reappointed at the conclusion of such term. [All initial
88 appointments to the advisory committee shall be made not later than
89 September 1, 2011.] Each member of the advisory committee shall serve
90 a five-year term from July first of the year of their appointment. Any
91 vacancy in the membership of the committee shall be filled by the
92 appointing authority for the unexpired portion of the term.

93 (b) The advisory committee shall meet at least three times each year
94 with the Child Advocate, and the Child Advocate's staff, for the
95 purposes described in subdivision (13) of subsection (a) of section 46a-
96 13l.

97 (c) The advisory committee shall provide for an annual evaluation of
98 the effectiveness of the Office of the Child Advocate.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	46a-13k
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	46a-13r

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Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	46a-13r

Statement of Purpose:

To modify the appointment process for the Child Advocate.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. WELANDER, 114th Dist.

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