



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 1368

LCO No. 4553



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE.

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

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 Section 46a-13m of the general statutes is repealed and the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

3 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes concerning
4 the confidentiality of records and information, the Child Advocate may
5 request and shall have access to, including the right to promptly inspect
6 and copy, any records necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the
7 Child Advocate as provided in section 46a-13l. Such records shall be
8 provided to the Child Advocate not later than fourteen days from the
9 date of such request. If the Child Advocate is denied access to any
10 records necessary to carry out said responsibilities, the Child Advocate
11 may issue a subpoena for the production of such records as provided in
12 subsection (c) of this section.

13 (b) In the performance of [his] the responsibilities [under] described
14 in subsection (a) of section 46a-13l, the Child Advocate may
15 communicate privately with any child or person who has received, is

16 receiving or should have received services from the state. Such
17 communications shall be confidential and not be subject to disclosure
18 except as provided in subsection (a) of section 46a-13n.

19 (c) The Child Advocate may issue subpoenas to compel the
20 attendance and testimony of witnesses or the production of books,
21 papers and other documents and to administer oaths to witnesses in any
22 matter under [his] the Child Advocate's investigation. If any person to
23 whom such subpoena is issued fails to appear or, having appeared,
24 refuses to give testimony or fails to produce the evidence required, the
25 Child Advocate may apply to the superior court for the judicial district
26 of Hartford which shall have jurisdiction to order such person to appear
27 and give testimony or to produce such evidence, as the case may be.

28 (d) The Child Advocate may apply for and accept grants, gifts and
29 bequests of funds from other states, federal and interstate agencies and
30 independent authorities and private firms, individuals and foundations,
31 for the purpose of carrying out [his] the Child Advocate's
32 responsibilities. There is established within the General Fund a child
33 advocate account which shall be a separate nonlapsing account. Any
34 funds received under this subsection shall, upon deposit in the General
35 Fund, be credited to said account and may be used by the Child
36 Advocate in the performance of [his] the Child Advocate's duties.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
---	--	--

Section 1	July 1, 2025	46a-13m
-----------	--------------	---------

Statement of Purpose:

To make technical changes to a statute relating to 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.]