



Substitute Senate Bill No. 1368

Special Act No. 25-18

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE
OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE.***

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

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working group to study statutes, policies and procedures relating to Probate Court guardianship proceedings, and make recommendations for improvement of such statutes, policies and procedures. Such study shall include, but need not be limited to, a review of the report of the Office of the Child Advocate submitted pursuant to section 12 of public act 24-118.

(b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

(1) The Probate Court Administrator, or the administrator's designee;

(2) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's designee;

(3) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's designee;

(4) The Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee;

(5) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing

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committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary, or their designees;

(6) One appointed by the House chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary, who is a parent who has experienced the removal of guardianship over such parent's child;

(7) One appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary, who is an adult who was the subject of a guardianship appointed by the Probate Court as a child;

(8) One appointed by the House ranking member of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary, who is an attorney who represents children or parents in guardianship proceedings before the Probate Court; and

(9) One appointed by the Senate ranking member of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary, who serves as a volunteer guardian ad litem.

(c) Any member of the working group appointed under subdivision (5), (6), (7), (8) or (9) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

(d) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(e) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary shall serve as cochairpersons of the working group. Such cochairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

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(f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

(g) Not later than January 1, 2026, the working group shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2026, whichever is later.

Governor's Action:
Approved July 8, 2025