



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 7001



Offered by:

REP. WELANDER, 114th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6183

File No. 154

Cal. No. 126

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

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

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 Section 46a-13k of the general statutes is repealed and the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

5 (a) (1) There is established, within the Office of Governmental
6 Accountability established under section 1-300, an Office of the Child
7 Advocate. The Governor, with the approval of the General Assembly,
8 shall appoint a person with knowledge of the child welfare system and
9 the legal system to fill the Office of the Child Advocate. Such person
10 shall be qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of the
11 office as set forth in section 46a-13l.

12 (2) Upon any vacancy in the position of Child Advocate, the advisory
13 committee established pursuant to section 46a-13r, as amended by this
14 act, shall meet to consider and interview successor candidates and shall

15 submit to the Governor a list of not fewer than three and not more than
16 five of the most outstanding candidates, not later than sixty days after
17 the occurrence of said vacancy. [, except that upon any vacancy in said
18 position occurring after January 1, 2012, but before June 15, 2012, the
19 advisory committee shall submit such list to the Governor on or before
20 July 31, 2012.] Such list shall rank the candidates in the order of
21 committee preference. Not later than eight weeks after receiving the list
22 of candidates from the advisory committee, the Governor shall
23 designate a candidate for Child Advocate from among the choices on
24 such list. If at any time any of the candidates withdraw from
25 consideration prior to confirmation by the General Assembly, the
26 designation shall be made from the remaining candidates on the list
27 submitted to the Governor. If, not later than eight weeks after receiving
28 the list, the Governor fails to designate a candidate from the list, the
29 candidate ranked first shall receive the designation and be referred to
30 the General Assembly for confirmation. If the General Assembly is not
31 in session, the designated candidate shall serve as acting Child
32 Advocate and be entitled to the compensation, privileges and powers of
33 the Child Advocate until the General Assembly meets to take action on
34 said appointment.

35 (3) The person appointed Child Advocate shall serve for a term of
36 [four] five years and may be reappointed in accordance with the
37 provisions of subdivision (4) of this subsection or shall continue to hold
38 office until such person's successor is appointed and qualified. Upon
39 any vacancy in the position of Child Advocate and until such time as a
40 candidate has been confirmed by the General Assembly or, if the
41 General Assembly is not in session, has been designated by the
42 Governor, the Associate Child Advocate shall serve as the acting Child
43 Advocate and be entitled to the compensation, privileges and powers of
44 the Child Advocate.

45 (4) (A) Not later than twelve months prior to the expiration of the
46 term of the Child Advocate, the advisory committee shall submit a
47 preliminary report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a,

48 to the Governor, the Child Advocate and the joint standing committees
49 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
50 judiciary, children and human services, evaluating the work of the Child
51 Advocate during the Child Advocate's tenure.

52 (B) Not later than six months prior to the expiration of the term of the
53 Child Advocate, the advisory committee shall submit a final report, in
54 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the Governor, the
55 Child Advocate and the joint standing committees of the General
56 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary,
57 children and human services, evaluating the work of the Child
58 Advocate during the Child Advocate's tenure and recommending the
59 reappointment of the Child Advocate or the appointment of a new Child
60 Advocate.

61 (C) Not later than ninety days after the submission of the final report
62 pursuant to subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, the Governor shall
63 notify the advisory committee of the Governor's acceptance or rejection
64 of the advisory committee's recommendation. If the Governor does not
65 provide such notice, the advisory committee's recommendation shall be
66 deemed accepted. If the Governor (i) elects to reappoint the Child
67 Advocate or a recommendation to reappoint the Child Advocate is
68 deemed accepted pursuant to this subparagraph, the Child Advocate
69 shall be referred to the General Assembly for confirmation, or (ii) does
70 not elect to reappoint the Child Advocate or a recommendation to not
71 reappoint the Child Advocate is deemed accepted pursuant to this
72 subparagraph, a new Child Advocate shall be appointed in accordance
73 with the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection.

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

77 (c) The Child Advocate may, within available funds, appoint such
78 staff as may be deemed necessary provided, for the fiscal years ending
79 June 30, 1996, and June 30, 1997, such staff shall not exceed one and one-

80 half full-time positions or the equivalent thereof. The duties of the staff
81 may include the duties and powers of the Child Advocate if performed
82 under the direction of the Child Advocate.

83 (d) The General Assembly shall annually appropriate such sums as
84 necessary for the payment of the salaries of the staff and for the payment
85 of office expenses and other actual expenses incurred by the Child
86 Advocate in the performance of his or her duties. Any legal or court fees
87 obtained by the state in actions brought by the Child Advocate shall be
88 deposited in the General Fund.

89 (e) The Child Advocate shall annually submit, in accordance with the
90 provisions of section 11-4a, to the Governor, the joint standing
91 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
92 relating to the judiciary, children and human services and the advisory
93 committee established pursuant to section 46a-13r, as amended by this
94 act, a detailed report analyzing the work of the Office of the Child
95 Advocate.

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

98 (a) There is established an advisory committee to the Office of the
99 Child Advocate established under section 46a-13k, as amended by this
100 act. Said committee shall prepare and submit to the Governor a list of
101 candidates for appointment of the Child Advocate. The advisory
102 committee shall consist of seven members as follows: (1) One appointed
103 by the president pro tempore of the Senate; (2) one appointed by the
104 speaker of the House of Representatives; (3) one appointed by the
105 majority leader of the Senate; (4) one appointed by the majority leader
106 of the House of Representatives; (5) one appointed by the minority
107 leader of the Senate; (6) one appointed by the minority leader of the
108 House of Representatives; and (7) one appointed by the Governor. The
109 committee shall select a chairperson who shall preside at meetings of
110 the committee. No member of the advisory committee shall be a person
111 who is a volunteer for, a board member of, or is employed by, any entity

112 or agency subject to the review of, or evaluation or monitoring by the
 113 Child Advocate pursuant to section 46a-13l, or is a communicator
 114 lobbyist who pursuant to such lobbyist's registration under chapter 10,
 115 lobbies on behalf of any entity or agency subject to the review of, or
 116 evaluation or monitoring by the Child Advocate pursuant to said
 117 section 46a-13l. Each member of the advisory committee shall serve a
 118 term of five years and may be reappointed at the conclusion of such
 119 term. All initial appointments to the advisory committee shall be made
 120 not later than September 1, 2011. Each member of the advisory
 121 committee shall serve a five-year term from July first of the year of their
 122 appointment. Any vacancy in the membership of the committee shall be
 123 filled by the appointing authority for the unexpired portion of the term.

124 (b) The advisory committee shall meet at least three times each year
 125 with the Child Advocate, and the Child Advocate's staff, for the
 126 purposes described in subdivision (13) of subsection (a) of section 46a-
 127 13l.

128 (c) The advisory committee shall provide for an annual evaluation of
 129 the effectiveness of the Office of the Child Advocate. Such evaluation
 130 shall be submitted, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a,
 131 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
 132 cognizance of the judiciary, children and human services and the
 133 Governor and published on the Internet web site of the Child Advocate."

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