
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1368 (File 175, as amended by Senate "A")*

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

SUMMARY

This bill establishes a 12-member working group to study and make recommendations for improving laws, policies, and procedures related to probate court guardianship proceedings. The working group must report its findings and recommendations to the Judiciary Committee by January 1, 2026. The working group terminates on the date it submits the report or January 1, 2026, whichever is later.

*Senate Amendment "A" removes from the underlying bill provisions that would have expanded the (1) list of recipients for notice of probate court hearings to appoint a minor's guardian and (2) required content of the notice for probate hearings to remove a parent as guardian or appoint a guardian.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

WORKING GROUP ON PROBATE COURT GUARDIANSHIP PROCEEDINGS

The bill establishes a working group to study and make recommendations to improve laws, policies, and procedures related to probate court guardianship proceedings. At a minimum, the study must review the Office of the Child Advocate's (OCA) 2025 report on Connecticut probate court guardianship proceedings required under PA 24-118.

Membership

Under the bill, working group members include the following state officials or their designees: the commissioners of children and families and social services, child advocate, probate court administrator, and Judiciary Committee chairpersons and ranking members. It also

includes the following four appointed members:

1. one parent whose guardianship over his or her child was removed, appointed by the Judiciary Committee House chairperson;
2. one adult who, as a child, had a guardian appointed for them by the probate court, appointed by the Judiciary Committee Senate chairperson;
3. one attorney representing children or parents in probate court guardianship proceedings, appointed by the Judiciary Committee House ranking member; and
4. one volunteer guardian ad litem, appointed by the Judiciary Committee Senate ranking member.

Appointing authorities must make their initial appointments within 30 days after the bill's passage and fill any vacancies. Appointed members may be legislators.

Leadership and Meetings

Under the bill, the Judiciary Committee chairpersons are the working group's co-chairpersons. They must schedule and hold the working group's first meeting within 60 days after the bill's passage.

The Judiciary Committee administrative staff serve in that capacity for the working group.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/06/2025)