

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 25-68—sHB 6183
Committee on Children

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

SUMMARY: The act makes various changes related to the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA), including:

1. extending the child advocate's term from four to five years;
2. establishing a specified reappointment process for the child advocate that generally requires OCA's advisory committee (see **BACKGROUND**) to evaluate the advocate's performance and recommend whether he or she should be reappointed; and
3. requiring the advisory committee to (a) submit its annual evaluation on the child advocate's effectiveness, which it must complete under existing law, to the governor and the Judiciary, Children, and Human Services committees and (b) post it on OCA's website.

The act also makes minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

CHILD ADVOCATE REAPPOINTMENT PROCESS

Existing law allows the child advocate to be reappointed at his or her term's conclusion. The act establishes a specified reappointment process. Under the act, at least 12 months before the advocate's term ends, OCA's advisory committee must submit a preliminary report evaluating the advocate's performance. Additionally, at least six months before the advocate's term ends, the committee must submit a final report once again evaluating his or her performance and recommending reappointment or appointment of a new advocate.

The act requires the advisory committee to give these reports to the governor, the child advocate, and the Judiciary, Children, and Human Services committees. Within 90 days after receiving the final report, the governor must accept or reject the committee's recommendation. If he does not do so, the committee's recommendation is deemed accepted.

If the governor reappoints the child advocate (or the reappointment recommendation is deemed accepted), the advocate must be referred to the General Assembly for confirmation. If the governor does not reappoint (or the recommendation not to reappoint is deemed accepted), a new child advocate must be appointed based on existing law's appointment and confirmation procedure (see **BACKGROUND**).

BACKGROUND

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

OCA Advisory Committee

By law, OCA's advisory committee consists of seven members appointed one each by the governor, Senate president pro tempore, House speaker, and House and Senate majority and minority leaders. Each committee member serves a five-year term and can be reappointed. The advisory committee's responsibilities include an annual evaluation of OCA's effectiveness.

Child Advocate Appointment and Confirmation

Under existing law, following a vacancy in the child advocate position, OCA's advisory committee gives the governor a ranked list of three to five candidates from which to choose. If the governor does not select one, the candidate ranked first is automatically designated.

The designated candidate is then referred to the General Assembly for confirmation. If the General Assembly is not in session, the designated candidate serves as acting child advocate until the General Assembly meets to vote on the appointment.