



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Raised Bill No. 6391

LCO No. 3340

03340_____JUD

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:
(JUD)

**AN ACT CONCERNING INVOLUNTARY ADMINISTRATION OF
PSYCHIATRIC MEDICATION FOR PURPOSES OF COMPETENCY TO
STAND TRIAL.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (k) of section 54-56d of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2007*):

4 (k) (1) When any placement order for treatment is rendered or
5 continued, the court shall set a date for a hearing, to be held within
6 ninety days, for reconsideration of the issue of the defendant's
7 competency. Whenever the court (A) receives a report pursuant to
8 subsection (j) of this section which indicates that (i) the defendant has
9 attained competency, (ii) the defendant will not attain competency
10 within the remainder of the period covered by the placement order,
11 (iii) the defendant will not attain competency within the remainder of
12 the period covered by the placement order absent administration of
13 psychiatric medication for which the defendant is unwilling or unable
14 to provide consent, or (iv) the defendant would be eligible for civil
15 commitment pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (h) of this

16 section, or (B) receives a report pursuant to subparagraph (A)(iii) of
17 subdivision (2) of subsection (h) of this section which indicates that (i)
18 the application for civil commitment of the defendant has been denied
19 or has not been pursued by the Commissioner of Mental Health and
20 Addiction Services, or (ii) the defendant is unwilling or unable to
21 comply with a treatment plan despite reasonable efforts of the
22 treatment facility to encourage the defendant's compliance, the court
23 shall set the matter for a hearing no later than ten days after the report
24 is received. The hearing may be waived by the defendant only if the
25 report indicates that the defendant is competent. The court shall
26 determine whether the defendant is competent or is making progress
27 toward attainment of competency within the period covered by the
28 placement order. If the court finds that the defendant is competent, the
29 defendant shall be returned to the custody of the Commissioner of
30 Correction or released, if the defendant has met the conditions for
31 release, and the court shall continue with the criminal proceedings. If
32 the court finds that the defendant is still not competent but that the
33 defendant is making progress toward attaining competency, the court
34 may continue or modify the placement order. If the court finds that the
35 defendant is still not competent and will not attain competency within
36 the remainder of the period covered by the placement order absent
37 administration of psychiatric medication for which the defendant is
38 unwilling or unable to provide consent, the court shall proceed as
39 provided in subdivisions (2), [and] (3) and (4) of this subsection. If the
40 court finds that the defendant is eligible for civil commitment, the
41 court may order placement of the defendant at a treatment facility
42 pending civil commitment proceedings pursuant to subdivision (2) of
43 subsection (h) of this section.

44 (2) If the court finds that the defendant will not attain competency
45 within the remainder of the period covered by the placement order
46 absent administration of psychiatric medication for which the
47 defendant is unwilling or unable to provide consent, and after any
48 hearing held pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection, the court
49 may order the involuntary medication of the defendant if the court

50 finds by clear and convincing evidence that: (A) To a reasonable
51 degree of medical certainty, involuntary medication of the defendant
52 will render the defendant competent to stand trial, (B) an adjudication
53 of guilt or innocence cannot be had using less intrusive means, (C) the
54 proposed treatment plan is narrowly tailored to minimize intrusion on
55 the defendant's liberty and privacy interests, (D) the proposed drug
56 regimen will not cause an unnecessary risk to the defendant's health,
57 and (E) the seriousness of the alleged crime is such that the criminal
58 law enforcement interest of the state in fairly and accurately
59 determining the defendant's guilt or innocence overrides the
60 defendant's interest in self-determination.

61 (3) (A) If the court finds that the defendant is unwilling or unable to
62 provide consent for the administration of psychiatric medication, and
63 prior to deciding whether to order the involuntary medication of the
64 defendant under subdivision (2) of this subsection, the court shall
65 appoint a health care guardian who shall be a licensed health care
66 provider with specialized training in the treatment of persons with
67 psychiatric disabilities to represent the health care interests of the
68 defendant before the court. Notwithstanding the provisions of section
69 52-146e, such health care guardian shall have access to the psychiatric
70 records of the defendant. Such health care guardian shall file a report
71 with the court not later than thirty days after his or her appointment.
72 The report shall set forth such health care guardian's findings and
73 recommendations concerning the administration of psychiatric
74 medication to the defendant, including the risks and benefits of such
75 medication, the likelihood and seriousness of any adverse side effects
76 and the prognosis with and without such medication. The court shall
77 hold a hearing on the matter not later than ten days after receipt of
78 such health care guardian's report and shall, in deciding whether to
79 order the involuntary medication of the defendant, take into account
80 such health care guardian's opinion concerning the health care
81 interests of the defendant.

82 (B) The court, in anticipation of considering continued involuntary

83 medication of the defendant under subdivision (4) of this subsection,
84 may order the health care guardian to file a supplemental report
85 updating the findings and recommendations contained in the health
86 care guardian's report filed under subparagraph (A) of this
87 subdivision.

88 (4) If, after the defendant has been found to have attained
89 competency by means of involuntary medication ordered under
90 subdivision (2) of this subsection, the court determines by clear and
91 convincing evidence that the defendant will not remain competent
92 absent the continued administration of psychiatric medication for
93 which the defendant is unwilling or unable to provide consent, and
94 after any hearing held pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection
95 and consideration of any supplemental report of the health care
96 guardian, the court may order continued involuntary medication of
97 the defendant if the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that:
98 (A) To a reasonable degree of medical certainty, continued involuntary
99 medication of the defendant will maintain the defendant's competency
100 to stand trial, (B) an adjudication of guilt or innocence cannot be had
101 using less intrusive means, (C) the proposed treatment plan is
102 narrowly tailored to minimize intrusion on the defendant's liberty and
103 privacy interests, (D) the proposed drug regimen will not cause an
104 unnecessary risk to the defendant's health, and (E) the seriousness of
105 the alleged crime is such that the criminal law enforcement interest of
106 the state in fairly and accurately determining the defendant's guilt or
107 innocence overrides the defendant's interest in self-determination.
108 Continued involuntary medication ordered under this subdivision
109 may be administered to the defendant while the criminal charges
110 against the defendant are pending and the defendant is in the custody
111 of the Commissioner of Correction or the Commissioner of Mental
112 Health and Addiction Services.

113 [(4)] (5) The state shall hold harmless and indemnify any health care
114 guardian appointed by the court pursuant to subdivision (3) of this
115 subsection from financial loss and expense arising out of any claim,

116 demand, suit or judgment by reason of such health care guardian's
117 alleged negligence or alleged deprivation of any person's civil rights or
118 other act or omission resulting in damage or injury, provided the
119 health care guardian is found to have been acting in the discharge of
120 his or her duties pursuant to said subdivision and such act or omission
121 is found not to have been wanton, reckless or malicious. The
122 provisions of subsections (b), (c) and (d) of section 5-141d shall apply
123 to such health care guardian. The provisions of chapter 53 shall not
124 apply to a claim against such health care guardian.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	54-56d(k)

Statement of Purpose:

To authorize continued involuntary administration of psychiatric medication to a criminal defendant for the purpose of maintaining the defendant's competency to stand trial.

[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.]