



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

Raised Bill No. 471

LCO No. 3277



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:
(JUD)

AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO JUSTICE.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2016*) (a) The Judicial Branch
2 shall establish, within available resources, a volunteer attorney
3 program. The Chief Court Administrator shall enlist the services of
4 attorneys who are admitted to the bar of this state and who are in good
5 standing to provide legal services to program participants, who are not
6 otherwise represented by attorneys, at no cost to the program
7 participants. Under the program, services provided by such attorneys
8 shall include, but not be limited to, assistance in applying for a
9 restraining order under section 46b-15 of the general statutes and
10 assistance in applying for a civil protection order under section 46b-
11 16a of the general statutes. With respect to the administration of the
12 pilot program, the Chief Court Administrator shall prescribe (1) the
13 level of professional experience required of a participating attorney, (2)
14 the training requirements for a participating attorney, (3) the scope of
15 services that may be provided, and (4) the dates, times and locations
16 for the provision of services.

17 (b) Not later than January 1, 2018, and not later than January first of
18 each year thereafter, the Chief Court Administrator shall submit a
19 report in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
20 statutes to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
21 having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary that sets forth:
22 (1) The number of attorneys participating in the program; (2) the total
23 number of volunteer hours provided by attorneys participating in the
24 program; (3) the number of persons receiving services under the
25 program; and (4) the costs incurred by the Judicial Branch to
26 administer the program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a volunteer attorney program that provides legal services, at no cost, to individuals who are without the economic means to retain competent legal counsel.

[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.]