



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 471**

February Session, 2016

\* SB00471JUD\_\_033016\_\_ \*

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

18 (b) Not later than January 1, 2018, and not later than January first of  
19 each year thereafter, the Chief Court Administrator shall submit a  
20 report in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general

21 statutes to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
22 having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary that sets forth:  
23 (1) The number of attorneys participating in the program; (2) the total  
24 number of volunteer hours provided by attorneys participating in the  
25 program; (3) the number of persons receiving legal services under the  
26 program; and (4) the costs incurred by the Judicial Branch to  
27 administer the program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	October 1, 2016	New section
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**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1, references to "services" were changed to "legal services" for clarity and consistency and references to "participating attorney" were changed to "volunteer attorney" for consistency.

**JUD**      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*