



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 47

February Session, 2016

House Bill No. 5254

House of Representatives, March 15, 2016

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. ABERCROMBIE of the 83rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT EXPANDING THE COMMISSION FOR CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 46b-215a of the general statutes is repealed and
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

3 (a) The Commission for Child Support Guidelines is established to
4 issue child support and arrearage guidelines to ensure the
5 appropriateness of criteria for the establishment of child support
6 awards and to review and issue updated guidelines every four years.
7 Such guidelines shall ensure, subject to section 46b-215c, that current
8 support, health care coverage, child care contribution and orders of
9 payment on any arrearage and past due support shall be based on the
10 income of both parents and the obligor's ability to pay. Such guidelines
11 shall also ensure the appropriateness of periodic payment orders on
12 arrearages when the obligor (1) is the child's legal guardian and resides
13 with the child, or (2) is not the child's legal guardian but has resided
14 with the child either for at least six months immediately preceding the

15 order of payment on the arrearage or for at least six months of the
16 twelve months immediately preceding such order. In such cases, the
17 commission shall consider exemptions similar to those in the uniform
18 contribution scale adopted pursuant to section 4a-12. Updated
19 arrearage guidelines shall be issued at the same time as the child
20 support guidelines.

21 (b) The commission shall consist of [eleven] thirteen members as
22 follows:

23 (1) The Chief Court Administrator, or the Chief Court
24 Administrator's designee;

25 (2) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's
26 designee;

27 (3) The Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee;

28 (4) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
29 committee on judiciary, or their designees;

30 (5) The Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee;

31 [(5)] (6) A representative of the Connecticut Bar Association,
32 designated by the Connecticut Bar Association; and

33 [(6) Three] (7) Four members appointed by the Governor, one of
34 whom represents an agency that delivers legal services to the poor, one
35 of whom represents the financial concerns of child support obligors,
36 [and] one of whom represents the Permanent Commission on the
37 Status of Women and one of whom represents the rights and best
38 interests of children.

39 (c) The Commissioner of Social Services shall convene the
40 commission whenever a review is required to issue updated guidelines
41 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and shall provide staffing for
42 the administrative and regulatory responsibilities of the commission
43 and, within available appropriations, funding for economic studies

44 required by the commission.

45 (d) The chairperson of the commission shall be elected by the
46 members of the commission. A vacancy on the commission at any time
47 shall not invalidate any actions taken by the commission during such
48 vacancy, provided at least nine members of the commission are
49 serving at the time of such action.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	46b-215a

HS *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill does not result in a fiscal impact to the Department of Social Services (DSS) as it codifies current practice.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5254*****AN ACT EXPANDING THE COMMISSION FOR CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill expands, from 11 to 13, the membership of the Commission for Child Support Guidelines by adding (1) the child advocate or her designee and (2) one member the governor appoints who must represent the rights and best interests of children. Under current law, the governor appoints three members.

The bill requires the Department of Social Services to provide (1) staffing for the commission's administrative and regulatory responsibilities and (2) within available appropriations, funding for economic studies the commission requires.

The Commission for Child Support Guidelines issues and reviews child support and arrearage guidelines to ensure that child support awards are based on appropriate criteria.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2016

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/03/2016)