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## OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6571

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF THE COURT TO ENTER AN ORDER OF SUPPORT FOR AN ADULT CHILD WHO HAS AN INTELLECTUAL OR MENTAL DISABILITY OR WHO IS PHYSICALLY DISABLED.***

#### **SUMMARY**

Current law allows the court to make appropriate support orders for a child up to age 21 who (1) has an intellectual disability, a mental disability, or who is physically disabled and (2) lives with a parent who they are primarily dependent on for support. Starting October 1, 2023, this bill increases the age limit from 21 to 26.

The bill's age limit increase applies to support orders entered on or after October 1, 2023, as (1) part of a divorce, legal separation, or annulment decree or (2) an initial support order not claiming such a decree. In cases entered before this date, the court may make the support orders only until the child attains age 21, as allowed under existing law.

Under the bill, as under existing law, the child support guidelines do not apply to these support orders.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

#### **DEFINITIONS**

##### ***Intellectual Disability***

Under the bill, "intellectual disability" is a significant limitation in intellectual functioning existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior that originated during the developmental period before age 18. "Significant limitation in intellectual functioning" is an intelligence quotient (IQ) more than two standard deviations below the mean as measured by general intellectual functioning tests that are individualized, standardized and clinically and culturally appropriate to the individual. "Adaptive behavior" is the effectiveness or degree

with which an individual meets the standards of personal independence and social responsibility expected for the individual's age and cultural group as measured by tests that are individualized, standardized, and clinically and culturally appropriate to the individual (CGS § 1-1g).

***Mental Disability***

Under the bill, “mental disability” refers to an individual who has a record of, or is regarded as having one or more mental disorders, as defined in the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric Association's “Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders” (CGS § 46a-51(20)).

***Physically Disabled***

Under the bill, “physically disabled” refers to any individual who has any chronic physical handicap, infirmity, or impairment, whether congenital or resulting from bodily injury, organic processes, or changes or from illness, including epilepsy, deafness or being hard of hearing, or reliance on a wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device (CGS § 46a-51(15)).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 37    Nay 0    (03/27/2023)