



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 1008

LCO No. 3481



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

***AN ACT CONCERNING LEGAL REPRESENTATION FOR CHILDREN
IN CERTAIN PROCEEDINGS IN THE SUPERIOR COURT.***

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

1 Section 1. Subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of section 46b-129a of
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

4 (2) (A) A child shall be represented by counsel knowledgeable about
5 representing such children who shall be assigned to represent the child
6 by the office of Chief Public Defender, or appointed by the court if there
7 is an immediate need for the appointment of counsel during a court
8 proceeding. Such assignment or appointment shall continue for the
9 duration of any such proceeding under section 46b-129. If the child's
10 parent or guardian has been accused by a competent witness of abusing
11 the child, or of causing the child to be neglected or uncared for, upon
12 the assignment or appointment of counsel, such counsel shall be granted
13 immediate access to (i) records relating to the child, including, but not
14 limited to, Department of Social Services records and medical, mental
15 health and substance abuse treatment, law enforcement and educational

16 records, without the necessity of securing further releases, and (ii) the
17 child, for the purpose of consulting with the child privately. The court
18 shall give the parties prior notice of such assignment or appointment.
19 Counsel for the child shall act solely as attorney for the child.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	46b-129a(2)(A)

Statement of Purpose:

To specify that legal representation provided to children in certain proceedings in the Superior Court shall continue for the duration of such proceedings.

[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.]