



**PA 23-189**—sSB 1023

*Judiciary Committee*

## **AN ACT CONCERNING PROBATE COURT OPERATIONS**

**SUMMARY:** This act makes changes in various laws governing probate court operations and related matters.

It updates the required technology that towns must provide their probate court, such as specifically requiring that they provide internet service (see below).

It also extends the deadline by which the Council on Probate Judicial Conduct must publish its findings and reasoning on the alleged misconduct of a probate judge, probate judicial candidate, probate magistrate, or attorney probate referee, from 15 to 30 days after a hearing on the matter.

For a claim of parentage filed by an alleged genetic parent, the act requires the probate court to serve notice on the unmarried birth parent at least 10 days before the hearing on the claim, instead of within five days after the claim was filed as prior law required. It also specifies that the court must serve the required hearing notice along with a copy of the claim. As under existing law, the court must also mail the notice to the attorney general, who must be a party to the action if the child has received state benefits or child support enforcement services.

Existing law sets rules for courts and family support magistrates when ordering genetic testing when parentage is at issue. The act specifies that these provisions apply to both the probate court and Superior Court and makes related conforming changes. It also makes conforming changes to specify that family support magistrates have the same authority as judges to order or deny this genetic testing.

Lastly, the act makes minor and technical changes.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2023

### **§ 1 — PROBATE COURT FACILITY TECHNOLOGY**

By law, the town or towns comprising each probate district must provide court facilities that meet minimum standards specified by statute. The act updates the required technology by specifically requiring (1) basic phone service that includes all necessary calls, not just local calls, and (2) network wiring, electrical wiring, and internet service. It also specifies that the computer equipment maintenance, phone line, wiring, and internet service must be appropriate to conduct the court's business as the probate court administrator determines.