



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 130

February Session, 2024

Substitute House Bill No. 5383

House of Representatives, March 26, 2024

The Committee on Children reported through REP. LINEHAN of the 103rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE STATE AGENCY PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES RELATING TO MINORS IN PROBATE COURT GUARDIANSHIP PROCEEDINGS.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working
2 group to examine the adequacy of state agency practices and procedures
3 for ensuring the care and protection of minors in Probate Court
4 guardianship proceedings. Such examination shall include, but need not
5 be limited to, a review of the (1) statutory requirements applicable to
6 such proceedings, (2) applicable court rules and policies and applicable
7 quality assurance measures, (3) practices, procedures and quality
8 assurance framework applicable to the work of the Department of
9 Children and Families in Probate Court matters, (4) training and
10 contractual expectations for counsel assigned to minors and guardians
11 ad litem in Probate Court guardianship matters, (5) quality of work
12 conducted by such counsel assigned to minors and guardians ad litem
13 in Probate Court guardianship proceedings and any applicable quality
14 assurance framework, and (6) practices and procedures for providing
15 guardianship subsidies to eligible recipients by the Department of Social
16 Services and the quality assurance framework applicable to the

17 administration of such benefits.

18 (b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

19 (1) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
20 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
21 relating to children;

22 (2) The Probate Court Administrator;

23 (3) The chief administrative judge of juvenile matters;

24 (4) The Commissioner of Children and Families, or the
25 commissioner's designee;

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

28 (6) The Child Advocate, or the Child Advocate's designee;

29 (7) One designated by the House chairperson of the joint standing
30 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
31 relating to children, who is a lawyer experienced in representing abused
32 or neglected children in Probate Court guardianship matters;

33 (8) One designated by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing
34 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
35 relating to children, who is a guardian ad litem experienced in
36 representing abused or neglected children in Probate Court
37 guardianship matters;

38 (9) One designated by the House ranking member of the joint
39 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
40 matters relating to children, who is a guardian ad litem experienced in
41 representing abused and neglected children in the superior court for
42 juvenile matters; and

43 (10) One designated by the Senate ranking member of the joint
44 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of

45 matters relating to children, who is a lawyer experienced in representing
46 abused and neglected children in the superior court for juvenile matters.

47 (c) Any member of the working group designated under subdivision
48 (7), (8), (9) or (10) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of
49 the General Assembly.

50 (d) All initial designations to the working group shall be made not
51 later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy
52 shall be filled by the appointing authority.

53 (e) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General
54 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children shall serve
55 as the chairpersons of the working group. Such chairpersons shall
56 schedule the first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not
57 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

58 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
59 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children
60 shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

61 (g) Not later than January 1, 2025, the working group shall submit a
62 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
63 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
64 relating to children, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
65 of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate on the date
66 that it submits such report or January 1, 2025, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

KID Joint Favorable Subst.

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, which establishes a working group to examine the adequacy of state agency practices and procedures for ensuring the care of minors in Probate Court guardianship proceedings, does not result in a fiscal impact to the state or municipalities as it is anticipated that Children's Committee administrative staff will be able to support the activities of the group.

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

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5383

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SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/12/2024)