



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5383**

February Session, 2024



**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
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**KID** Joint Favorable Subst.