

**Proposed Substitute
Bill No. 6183**

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 5584

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CHILD
ADVOCATE.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 46a-13k of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 (a) There is established, within the Office of Governmental
4 Accountability established under section 1-300, an Office of the Child
5 Advocate. The [Governor] advisory committee established pursuant to
6 section 46a-13r, as amended by this act, with the approval of the General
7 Assembly, shall appoint a person with knowledge of the child welfare
8 system and the legal system to fill the Office of the Child Advocate. Such
9 person shall be qualified by training and experience to perform the
10 duties of the office as set forth in section 46a-13l. Upon any vacancy in
11 the position of Child Advocate, the advisory committee [established
12 pursuant to section 46a-13r] shall meet to consider and interview
13 successor candidates and shall, [submit to the Governor a list of not
14 fewer than three and not more than five of the most outstanding
15 candidates,] not later than sixty days after the occurrence of said
16 vacancy, [except that upon any vacancy in said position occurring after
17 January 1, 2012, but before June 15, 2012, the advisory committee shall
18 submit such list to the Governor on or before July 31, 2012. Such list shall
19 rank the candidates in the order of committee preference. Not later than
20 eight weeks after receiving the list of candidates from the advisory
21 committee, the Governor shall] designate a candidate for Child
22 Advocate from among [the choices on such list. If at any time any of the

23 candidates withdraw from consideration prior to confirmation by the
24 General Assembly, the designation shall be made from the remaining
25 candidates on the list submitted to the Governor. If, not later than eight
26 weeks after receiving the list, the Governor fails to designate a candidate
27 from the list, the candidate ranked first shall receive the designation and
28 be referred to the General Assembly for confirmation] such successor
29 candidates and refer such candidate to the General Assembly for
30 confirmation. If the General Assembly is not in session, the designated
31 candidate shall serve as acting Child Advocate and be entitled to the
32 compensation, privileges and powers of the Child Advocate until the
33 General Assembly meets to take action on said appointment. The person
34 appointed Child Advocate shall serve for a term of four years and may
35 be reappointed or shall continue to hold office until such person's
36 successor is appointed and qualified. Upon any vacancy in the position
37 of Child Advocate and until such time as a candidate has been
38 confirmed by the General Assembly or, if the General Assembly is not
39 in session, has been designated by the [Governor] advisory committee,
40 the Associate Child Advocate shall serve as the acting Child Advocate
41 and be entitled to the compensation, privileges and powers of the Child
42 Advocate.

43 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes, the
44 Child Advocate shall act independently of any state department in the
45 performance of the advocate's duties.

46 (c) The Child Advocate may, within available funds, appoint such
47 staff as may be deemed necessary. [provided, for the fiscal years ending
48 June 30, 1996, and June 30, 1997, such staff shall not exceed one and one-
49 half full-time positions or the equivalent thereof.] The duties of the staff
50 may include the duties and powers of the Child Advocate if performed
51 under the direction of the Child Advocate.

52 (d) The General Assembly shall annually appropriate such sums as
53 necessary for the payment of the salaries of the staff and for the payment
54 of office expenses and other actual expenses incurred by the Child

55 Advocate in the performance of his or her duties. Any legal or court fees
56 obtained by the state in actions brought by the Child Advocate shall be
57 deposited in the General Fund.

58 (e) The Child Advocate shall annually submit, in accordance with the
59 provisions of section 11-4a, to the Governor, the joint standing
60 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
61 relating to the judiciary, children and human services and the advisory
62 committee established pursuant to section 46a-13r, as amended by this
63 act, a detailed report analyzing the work of the Office of the Child
64 Advocate.

65 Sec. 2. Section 46a-13r of the general statutes is repealed and the
66 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

67 (a) There is established an advisory committee to the Office of the
68 Child Advocate established under section 46a-13k, as amended by this
69 act. Said committee shall, [prepare and submit to the Governor a list of
70 candidates for appointment of] with the approval of the General
71 Assembly, appoint the Child Advocate. The advisory committee shall
72 consist of seven members as follows: (1) One appointed by the president
73 pro tempore of the Senate; (2) one appointed by the speaker of the House
74 of Representatives; (3) one appointed by the majority leader of the
75 Senate; (4) one appointed by the majority leader of the House of
76 Representatives; (5) one appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;
77 (6) one appointed by the minority leader of the House of
78 Representatives; and (7) one appointed by the Governor. The committee
79 shall select a chairperson who shall preside at meetings of the
80 committee. No member of the advisory committee shall be a person who
81 is a volunteer for, a board member of, or is employed by, any entity or
82 agency subject to the review of, or evaluation or monitoring by the Child
83 Advocate pursuant to section 46a-13l, or is a communicator lobbyist
84 who pursuant to such lobbyist's registration under chapter 10, lobbies
85 on behalf of any entity or agency subject to the review of, or evaluation
86 or monitoring by the Child Advocate pursuant to said section 46a-13l.

87 Each member of the advisory committee shall serve a term of five years
88 and may be reappointed at the conclusion of such term. [All initial
89 appointments to the advisory committee shall be made not later than
90 September 1, 2011.] Each member of the advisory committee shall serve
91 a five-year term from July first of the year of their appointment. Any
92 vacancy in the membership of the committee shall be filled by the
93 appointing authority for the unexpired portion of the term.

94 (b) The advisory committee shall meet at least three times each year
95 with the Child Advocate, and the Child Advocate's staff, for the
96 purposes described in subdivision (13) of subsection (a) of section 46a-
97 13l.

98 (c) The advisory committee shall provide for an annual evaluation of
99 the effectiveness of the Office of the Child Advocate.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	46a-13k
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	46a-13r