



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 311

February Session, 2022



AN ACT CONCERNING A TECHNICAL REVISION TO A STATUTE CONCERNING THE DUTIES OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE AND CHILD FATALITY REVIEW PANEL.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 46a-13l of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2022*):

4 (a) The Child Advocate shall:

5 (1) Evaluate the delivery of services to children by state agencies and
6 those entities that provide services to children through funds provided
7 by the state;

8 (2) [Review periodically] Periodically review the procedures
9 established by any state agency providing services to children to carry
10 out the provisions of sections 46a-13k to 46a-13p, inclusive, with a view
11 toward the rights of the children and recommend revisions to such
12 procedures;

13 (3) Review complaints of persons concerning the actions of any state
14 or municipal agency providing services to children and of any entity
15 that provides services to children through funds provided by the state,
16 make appropriate referrals and investigate those where the Child

17 Advocate determines that a child or family may be in need of assistance
18 from the Child Advocate or that a systemic issue in the state's provision
19 of services to children is raised by the complaint;

20 (4) Pursuant to an investigation, provide assistance to a child or
21 family who the Child Advocate determines is in need of such assistance
22 including, but not limited to, advocating with an agency, provider or
23 others on behalf of the best interests of the child;

24 (5) Periodically review the facilities and procedures of any and all
25 institutions or residences, public or private, where a juvenile has been
26 placed by any agency or department;

27 (6) Recommend changes in state policies concerning children
28 including changes in the system of providing juvenile justice, child care,
29 foster care and treatment;

30 (7) Take all possible action including, but not limited to, conducting
31 programs of public education, undertaking legislative advocacy and
32 making proposals for systemic reform and formal legal action, in order
33 to secure and ensure the legal, civil and special rights of children who
34 reside in this state;

35 (8) Provide training and technical assistance to attorneys
36 representing children and guardians ad litem appointed by the Superior
37 Court;

38 (9) Periodically review the number of special needs children in any
39 foster care or permanent care facility and recommend changes in the
40 policies and procedures for the placement of such children;

41 (10) Serve or designate a person to serve as a member of the child
42 fatality review panel established in subsection (b) of this section;

43 (11) Take appropriate steps to advise the public of the services of the
44 Office of the Child Advocate, the purpose of the office and procedures
45 to contact the office; and

46 (12) Prepare an in-depth report on conditions of confinement,
47 including, but not limited to, compliance with section 46a-152,
48 regarding children twenty years of age or younger who are held in
49 secure detention or correctional confinement in any facility operated by
50 a state agency. Such report shall be submitted, in accordance with the
51 provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the
52 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children not
53 later than March 1, 2017, and every two years thereafter.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2022	46a-131(a)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1, Subsecs. (b) to (h), inclusive, were deleted for consistency with standard drafting conventions.

KID *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*