
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 474

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF ANNUAL TRAINING TO A PERSON APPOINTED AS A CONSERVATOR IN A PROBATE COURT PROCEEDING.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the probate court administrator, within available appropriations, to establish, supervise, and fund an annual training program for newly appointed conservators of the estate and conservators of the person (see BACKGROUND).

Relatedly, beginning October 1, 2026, the bill requires anyone appointed as a conservator in a Probate Court proceeding to protect someone or their property, to complete the training. It subjects anyone who fails to do this without good cause to removal as a conservator under the law's existing removal procedure.

The bill also allows (1) conservators appointed before October 1, 2026, to take the annual training and (2) the probate court administrator to charge them a reasonable fee of up to \$35 for the training.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

CONSERVATOR TRAINING PROGRAM

Under the bill, the training program must at least review:

1. statutes, probate court rules, and regulations on conservators' responsibilities and duties;
2. ethical considerations that arise when carrying out conservator responsibilities and duties;
3. the probate court system's operation and the Probate Court User Guide for Conservators; and

4. resources for conservators seeking assistance, guidance, or advice when carrying out their duties and responsibilities to the conserved person.

BACKGROUND

Conservator Appointment

By law, the court may appoint a conservator if it considers specific factors (such as a person's abilities and capacity) and finds by clear and convincing evidence that the person is incapable of:

1. managing his or her affairs, the affairs cannot be managed adequately without appointing a conservator, and doing so is the least restrictive way to help the person in his or her affairs ("conservator of the estate") or
2. caring for himself or herself, the person cannot be cared for adequately without appointing a conservator, and doing so is the least restrictive way to help the person care for himself or herself ("conservator of the person") (CGS § 45a-650(f)).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 41 Nay 0 (03/23/2026)