



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 1060

LCO No. 4241



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:
(JUD)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ADVOCATE IN PROCEEDINGS CONCERNING THE WELFARE OR CUSTODY OF ANIMALS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 54-86n of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

3 (a) In any prosecution under section 53-247, or in any court
4 proceeding pursuant to section 22-329a or in the criminal session of the
5 Superior Court regarding the welfare or custody of [a cat or dog] an
6 animal, the court may order, upon its own initiative or upon request of
7 a party or counsel for a party, that a separate advocate be appointed to
8 represent the interests of justice. If a court orders that an advocate be
9 appointed to represent the interests of justice, the court shall appoint
10 such advocate from a list provided to the court by the Commissioner of
11 Agriculture pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. A decision by the
12 court denying a request to appoint a separate advocate to represent the
13 interests of justice shall not be subject to appeal.

14 (b) The advocate may: (1) Monitor the case; (2) consult any individual

15 with information that could aid the judge or fact finder and review
16 records relating to the condition of the [cat or dog] animal and the
17 defendant's actions, including, but not limited to, records from animal
18 control officers, veterinarians and police officers; (3) attend hearings;
19 and (4) present information or recommendations to the court pertinent
20 to determinations that relate to the interests of justice, provided such
21 information and recommendations shall be based solely upon the duties
22 undertaken pursuant to this subsection.

23 (c) The Department of Agriculture shall maintain a list of attorneys
24 with knowledge of animal issues and the legal system and a list of law
25 schools that have students, or anticipate having students, with an
26 interest in animal issues and the legal system. Such attorneys and law
27 students shall be eligible to serve on a voluntary basis as advocates
28 under this section. The provisions of sections 3-14 to 3-21, inclusive, of
29 the Connecticut Practice Book shall govern a law student's participation
30 as an advocate under this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	54-86n

Statement of Purpose:

To allow the court to appoint an advocate in proceedings concerning the welfare or custody of animals.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]