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PROBATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

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TO: Senate Co-Chair Gary A. Winfield, Judiciary Committee
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Senate Ranking Member John A. Kissel
House Ranking Member Craig C. Fishbein
Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Beverly K. Streit, Probate Court Administrator

CC: Kirstin L Breiner, Committee Administrator
Austin Hyatt, Committee Clerk

DATE: 01-15-2026

SUBJECT: Public Act 25-48 § 7 Conservator Working Group Executive Summary

Executive Summary

Public Act 25-48 § 7 charged the Probate Court Administrator to convene a Working Group “consisting of Probate Court judges, the Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner’s designee, representatives of nursing homes, as defined in section 19a-563 of the general statutes, and attorneys having expertise serving as conservators, to study and provide recommendations on the issues facing conservators in the Probate Court system, including, but not limited to, delay of payments, fee waiver requirements and compensation levels.” Pursuant to that charge, the Probate Court Administrator submits the following report on the results of the Working Group review, discussions, and accompanying recommendations.

After multiple meetings and research, the Working Group has five recommendations for the Judiciary Committee to consider:

First, the Working Group recommends evaluation of available state and/or federal funds to increase the rate of pay relevant to Regulation 16 third-party conservators for indigent conserved persons.

Second, the Working Group recommends review of C.G.S. § 45a-645d for possible modification to develop a more robust ‘standby’ or back-up conservator appointment system to provide ‘successor’ conservators for temporary or unforeseen periods of unavailability.

Third, the Working Group recommends the Office of the Probate Court Administrator evaluate Regulation 16 of the Probate Court Regulations and eBilling and probate policies surrounding fee waivers and the submission of invoices. Specifically, evaluating

the best method to preserve or retain original submission dates of invoices while they are being reviewed, corrected, or adjusted.

Fourth, the Working Group recommends evaluation of whether, within available resources, the Department of Social Services may:

- allocate specific dedicated and trained staff to review assistance applications submitted by conservators or applications concerning persons with specific Probate Court involvement (open conservators of the estate appointments);
- provide additional education and educational resources regarding program policies and procedures with the target audience of conservators in mind; and
- allocate (or appropriate) dedicated resources for expanded appointments of DSS as conservator under section 45a-651.

Fifth, the Working Group recommends evaluation of available state and other resources to develop targeted mentoring and education of third-party conservators.