

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## HB 1165

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C 241 L 93  
Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Revising provisions relating to guardians ad litem for juveniles.

By Representatives Riley, Cooke, Leonard, Appelwick and Johanson.

House Committee on Human Services  
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

**Background:** The court is required to appoint a guardian ad litem or attorney to represent a child who is the subject of a dependency action or of a proceeding related to child abuse and neglect. There is currently no definition in statute of a "guardian ad litem" or a "guardian ad litem program."

**Summary:** A guardian ad litem is defined as a person appointed by the court to represent the best interests of the child. A guardian ad litem program is defined as a court-authorized volunteer program designed to manage all aspects of volunteer guardian ad litem representation of children alleged or found to be dependent. Court procedures for the appointment of a guardian ad litem related to the duration of the appointment, the legal standing of the guardian ad litem, and the specific duties of the guardian ad litem are established. Guardian ad litem programs will maintain background information records on guardians ad litem and update the information annually.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

House	98	0	
Senate	46	0	(Senate amended)
House	95	0	(House concurred)

**Effective:** July 25, 1993