

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 466

BY REPRESENTATIVE GISCLAIR

CHILDRENS CODE: Provides relative to court-appointed special advocates

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact Children's Code Articles 424.2 , 424.4(B), and 616(C) and (D), and
3 to repeal Children's Code Article 616(C) and (D) as amended and reenacted by Act
4 No. 348 of the 2017 Regular Session of the Legislature, relative to court appointed
5 special advocates; to provide authority to access the child's home; to provide relative
6 to the attendance of certain hearings and meetings; to provide for screenings of
7 CASA volunteers, staff members, and board of director members; to provide for
8 contingent effective dates; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. Children's Code Articles 424.2 and 424.4(B) are hereby amended and
11 reenacted to read as follows:

12 Art. 424.2. CASA; order of assignment

13 To accomplish the assignment of a CASA volunteer, the court shall issue an
14 order of assignment which shall grant the CASA volunteer the authority to review
15 all relevant documents pursuant to Article 424.6 and to interview all parties and
16 witnesses involved in the proceeding in which he is appointed. The order may grant
17 the CASA volunteer the authority to access the home in which a child is placed,
18 unless prohibited by the court.

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20 Art. 424.4. CASA; notice

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Proposed law retains present law and adds CASA program staff members and board of director members to those individuals who may be screened by a court for any justifiable reports of abuse or neglect, if any such individuals have contact with children served by CASA.

(Amends Ch.C. Arts. 424.2, 424.4(B), 616(C) and (D); Repeals Ch.C. Arts. 616(C) and (D) as amended and reenacted by Act No. 348 of the 2017 R.S.)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure to the original bill:

1. Allow the court to prohibit a CASA volunteer from accessing the home in which the child was placed.
2. Allow the parent to object to the CASA volunteer attending administrative review hearings and family team meetings.
3. Add a condition that the individual have contact with children in order for the court to search the central registry for CASA volunteers, staff members, and board members.
4. Make changes to present law as it currently reads and as it will read once a delayed effective date is triggered.