

**HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**

**HB 466**

**2018 Regular Session**

**Gisclair**

CHILDRENS CODE: Provides relative to court-appointed special advocates

**Synopsis of Senate Amendments**

1. Removes CASA volunteer from list of persons about whom inconclusive investigation reports may be disclosed during the evaluation of his application to serve as a CASA volunteer, effective upon adoption of rules by DCFS.
2. Changes language to remove reference to court's prohibiting a CASA volunteer from accessing the home in which a child is placed.
3. Makes certain provisions effective upon the adoption, rather than promulgation, of rules by DCFS.

**Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate**

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 424.2) allows the court appointed special advocate program (CASA) to review relevant documents and to interview parties and witnesses involved in the proceeding.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that the court may also grant the CASA volunteer access to the home in which a child is placed.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 424.4) requires CASA volunteers to be notified of all administrative review hearings related to the case.

Proposed law retains present law and requires that CASA volunteers be allowed to attend all family team meetings as well as administrative review hearings related to the case, unless the parent objects.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 616) allows a court to screen individuals applying to work as a court appointed special advocate for any justified reports of abuse or neglect.

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.

Present law allows information from investigations of reports of child abuse or neglect that are inconclusive to be disclosed, with the applicant's written consent, to evaluate an applicant to be a CASA volunteer. Proposed law deletes present law, effective upon adoption of rules by the Dept. of Children and Family Services.

(Amends Ch.C. Arts. 424.2, 424.4(B), 616(C), (D), and (F))