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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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### MEETING MINUTES

### STUDY COMMITTEE ON MINOR GUARDIANSHIPS

Legislative Council Conference Room  
One East Main Street, Suite 401  
Madison, WI

November 29, 2018  
1:30 – 2:40 p.m.

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#### Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Steineke called the meeting to order. A quorum was determined to be present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Jim Steineke, Chair; Sen. LaTonya Johnson, Vice Chair; Reps. Debra Kolste and Paul Tittl; and Public Members Susan Conwell, Megan DeVore, Henry Plum, Theresa Roetter, Michael Rosborough, and Gretchen Viney.

COMMITTEE MEMBER EXCUSED: Public Member Carrie Schneider.

COUNCIL STAFF PRESENT: Steve McCarthy and Amber Otis, Staff Attorneys.

#### Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting on October 23, 2018

*Mr. Plum moved, seconded by Sen. Johnson, to approve the minutes from the committee's meeting on October 23, 2018. The motion passed by unanimous consent.*

<p><b>ATTENTION:</b> This was the final meeting of the Study Committee on Minor Guardianships. Committee members are requested to send any corrections regarding these minutes to the Legislative Council staff. After the incorporation of any corrections, these minutes will be considered approved by the committee.</p>
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## **Discussion of LRB-0241/1, Relating to Guardianships of Children**

Amber Otis, Legislative Council staff, summarized the changes made by the committee to the bill draft at the previous meeting and described the proposed amendment to LRB-0241/1 provided by Public Member Gretchen Viney for the committee's consideration.

Ms. Viney explained to the committee that her proposed amendment uses language intended to better capture the role of a guardian ad litem (GAL) in a private minor guardianship.

The committee discussed the proposed amendment and agreed to make a number of changes to the proposed amendment. Specifically, the committee reached general consensus to make all of the following changes to the proposed amendment and incorporate the updated amendment into LRB-0241/1: require the GAL to complete a "diligent" investigation; clarify that the GAL may complete certain aspects of an investigation personally or through a trained designee; provide that the GAL must comply with certain specific duties and responsibilities required of a GAL under ch. 48, Stats.; clarify that the GAL may meet with "interested persons" as defined in the bill; and retain certain provisions from LRB-0241/1 relating to GAL access to records.

After all members were given an opportunity to propose and discuss any changes, Chair Steineke entertained a motion to approve the bill draft.

*Mr. Plum moved, seconded by Ms. Roetter, to approve LRB-0241/1, with the changes enumerated above, and recommend introduction by the Joint Legislative Council. The motion was approved on a vote of Ayes, 10 (Reps. Steineke, Kolste, and Tittl; Sen. Johnson; and Public Members Conwell, DeVore, Plum, Roetter, Rosborough, and Viney; Noes; 0; and Absent, 1 (Public Member Schneider).*

## **Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

[The preceding is a summary of the November 29, 2018 meeting of the Study Committee on Minor Guardianships, which was recorded by WisconsinEye. The video recording is available in the WisconsinEye archives at <http://www.wiseye.org/Video-Archive>.]

SM:ksm