

of which must be attorneys and one must be a member of the public; and four appointed by the governor. Qualifications for board members are provided.

The board would be required to establish and administer a statewide guardian ad litem program to advocate for the best interests of children, minor parents, and incompetent adults in court. The board is also required to recommend a budget for the program to the legislature, establish procedures for distributing funding, and establish other standards for the program. Certain discretionary powers are also granted to the board. The board would be required to appoint a program administrator. Duties of the administrator are provided.

Beginning in FY 2011, the board would be permitted to contract with the state court administrator for administrative services.

Records of the board would be subject to disclosure as permitted under court rules.

Certain provisions related to fees and costs in civil actions would apply to the board.

- 6 Guardian ad litem fees.** Directs the commissioner of management and budget to deposit certain guardian ad litem reimbursements into a special account with the State Guardian Ad Litem Board, established earlier in the bill. Currently, these reimbursements are deposited into an account subject to the control of the district courts. Revenue would be required to be spent in the district in which it is collected.
- 7 Transition.** Provides that the State Guardian Ad Litem Board must be established by October 1, 2010, and provides procedures for transferring powers to the board.
- 8 Funding; transfer.** Provides for transferring of \$12.367 million from funds for the guardian ad litem accounts to the board and for expenses associated with establishing the board. The legislature would be required to provide additional appropriations in the future for expenses of the board.
- 9 Effective date.** Provides an effective date for the bill.