



MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATORS

SUPPORT SB 806, sponsored by Senator Crawford (R-28)

MAPA supports SB 806, improving and clarifying the processes used by the courts when appointing a Public Administrator as guardian and creating a more efficient process for conservatorships

- **PRIORITIZES FAMILIES AS GUARDIANS (475.050)**
 - Clarifies and strengthens existing statute to ensure that a Public Administrator is only appointed guardian when there is no family or relative able and willing to serve
- **IMPROVES GUARDIANSHIP TRANSITION PROCESS (475.070 & 475.075)**
 - Allows Public Administrators to familiarize themselves with cases in order to provide a higher level of care and a more seamless transition into guardianship
 - Requires that Public Administrators receive notice of petition when being considered for appointment, as well as accompanying exhibits on the case. This includes written notice indicating the date and time of the proceeding and an opportunity to be present and heard
- **CREATES EFFICIENT PROCESSES FOR CONSERVATORSHIPS (475.290 & 475.320)**
 - Allows Public Administrators one year to close out conservatorships for decedent estates, while current statute allows only 60 days. Often this deadline cannot feasibly be met, especially when dealing with Medicaid billing for the decedent, which leads to burdensome paperwork for filing for extensions

What is a Public Administrator?

Public Administrators are county elected officials in 112 counties, and are appointed officials in Jackson and St. Charles County and the City of St. Louis.

Once elected, Public Administrators are appointed by the probate court to manage the affairs of an individual as a Guardian and/or Conservator:

- A **Guardian** is charged with the duty of managing all affairs on an individual, called wards
- A **Conservator** is charged with the duty of managing the estate of an individual, called protectees

Who do Public Administrators Care for?

Public Administrators serve some of our most vulnerable populations that do not have family who are able or willing to care for them.

Missouri's 115 Public Administrators currently care for more than **11,000** of the state's mentally ill, elderly, and disabled citizens.

Without Public Administrators, these individuals would be wards of the state. This would cost the state more money, and would make it more difficult for these individuals to receive the high quality of care they deserve.