



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4475

Introduced 1/20/2026, by Rep. Justin Slaughter

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

725 ILCS 5/Art. 113A heading new
725 ILCS 5/113A-1 new

Amends the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963. Provides that in a prosecution of a case involving the injury, health, or safety of a cat or dog, the court may, on its own motion or motion of any party, appoint a licensed attorney-at-law of the State or a law student authorized to provide services under Supreme Court Rule 711 as a special advocate to assist the court, as deemed appropriate by the court and on a pro bono basis, and represent the interests of justice regarding the health or safety of the cat or dog. Provides that the advocate may: (1) monitor the case; (2) consult any person with information that could aid the court and review records relating to the condition of the cat or dog and the defendant's actions, including, but not limited to, records from animal control officers, veterinarians, and police officers; (3) attend hearings; and (4) present information or recommendations to the court pertinent to determinations that relate to the interests of justice, provided that information shall be based solely on the duties undertaken under this provision. Provides that nothing in the amendatory Act shall be construed to alter the legal status of animals as a unique class of personal property.

LRB104 16266 RLC 29650 b

1 AN ACT concerning criminal law.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963 is
5 amended by adding Article 113A as follows:

6 (725 ILCS 5/Art. 113A heading new)

7 ARTICLE 113A. SPECIAL ADVOCATES

8 (725 ILCS 5/113A-1 new)

9 Sec. 113A-1. Special advocates.

10 (a) In a prosecution of a criminal case involving the
11 injury, health, or safety of a cat or dog, the court may, on
12 its own motion or motion of any party, appoint a licensed
13 attorney-at-law of this State or a law student authorized to
14 provide services under Supreme Court Rule 711 as a special
15 advocate to assist the court, as deemed appropriate by the
16 court and on a pro bono basis, and represent the interests of
17 justice regarding the health or safety of the cat or dog.

18 (b) The advocate may:

19 (1) monitor the case;

20 (2) consult any person with information that could aid
21 the court and review records relating to the condition of
22 the cat or dog and the defendant's actions, including, but

1 not limited to, records from animal control officers,
2 veterinarians, and police officers;

3 (3) attend hearings; and

4 (4) present information or recommendations to the
5 court pertinent to determinations that relate to the
6 interests of justice, provided that information shall be
7 based solely on the duties undertaken under this
8 subsection (b).

9 (c) Nothing in this amendatory Act of the 104th General
10 Assembly shall be construed to alter the legal status of
11 animals as a unique class of personal property.