



Statement from the Michigan Guardianship Association Regarding Legislation to Require State Licensure for Professional Guardians and Conservators

2/5/2026 - The Michigan Guardianship Association (“MGA”) and its membership offer their unconditional support of **House Bills 4727, 4728, 4729 and 4959** sponsored by State Representatives Kathy Schmaltz, Curt VanderWall and Jimmie Wilson.

This bipartisan bill package would create a long overdue state-level licensure requirement within Michigan’s Occupational Code for all individuals wishing to be appointed by the Probate Court as a *Professional* Guardian or Conservator.

This common-sense legislation utilizes the nationally recognized certification exam administered by the Center for Guardianship Certification as the basis for the licensure, while adding other state specific requirements like minimum age and education levels, a criminal background check and relevant continuing education credits.

Licensure would be required for any staff member of a professional guardian, guardianship company or conservator independently making health care, financial, legal, and housing decisions for the person under guardianship.

The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs would be responsible for the administration of the state licensure program for guardians and conservators, including a nine-member oversight board appointed by the Governor. This board will provide the public with a venue to lodge complaints about alleged guardian or conservator misconduct and empowers the oversight board with disciplinary powers.

It is equally important to point out what the legislation doesn’t do, and that is to require the licensure of family members or nonprofessional guardians and conservators, nor do they require that Probate Judges only appoint licensed guardians and conservators. This judicial discretion can be preserved while simultaneously raising the bar for those who wish to serve Michigan’s most vulnerable citizens.

These bills passed the House Families and Veterans Committee in the Fall of 2025, and are awaiting a full vote by the Michigan House of Representatives.

MGA urges the House of Representatives to vote on these important bills.