

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

[P E R F E C T E D]

# SENATE BILL NO. 256

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY SENATORS SATER, NASHEED, AND CHAPPELLE-NADAL.

Read 1st time January 15, 2015, and ordered printed.

Read 2nd time February 11, 2015, and referred to the Committee on Seniors, Families and Children.

Reported from the Committee March 5, 2015, with recommendation that the bill do pass.

Taken up for Perfection March 11, 2015. Bill declared Perfected and Ordered Printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

1027S.03P

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## AN ACT

To amend chapter 454, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to state debt owed by noncustodial parents.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 454, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 454.1760, to read as follows:

**454.1760. 1. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the department of social services shall establish a pilot program which would allow eligible noncustodial parents to reduce their amount of state debt, as defined in section 454.465, owed based on participation in the program.**

**2. The goals of the pilot program shall include, but not be limited to:**

**(1) Empowering noncustodial parents with the necessary resources to achieve gainful employment;**

**(2) Encouraging noncustodial parents to be engaged with their children; and**

**(3) Encouraging noncustodial parents to take financial responsibility for their children's well-being.**

**3. The pilot program shall allow for a reduction in the amount of state debt owed by a noncustodial parent based upon the number of hours of participation in the program to be determined by the department. In no event shall the amount of state debt owed be reduced by more than two thousand dollars.**

19           **4. The pilot program shall not:**

20           **(1) Change the noncustodial parent's monthly child support**  
21 **obligations;**

22           **(2) Compromise any arrears owed to the custodial parent; or**

23           **(3) Compromise any spousal support arrears.**

24           **5. Eligible noncustodial parents who participate in the pilot**  
25 **program and who continually demonstrate good faith efforts to achieve**  
26 **the goals established by the program pursuant to subsection 2 of this**  
27 **section, shall not be subject to prosecution for criminal nonsupport**  
28 **during their participation in the program. Upon completing the**  
29 **program, the noncustodial parent shall not be subject to prosecution**  
30 **for criminal nonsupport for a term of one year beginning on the date**  
31 **of program completion.**

32           **6. If at anytime the department determines that a noncustodial**  
33 **parent is not demonstrating good faith efforts to achieve the goals**  
34 **established by the program, then the noncustodial parent shall be**  
35 **removed from the program, shall not receive a reduction in the amount**  
36 **of state debt owed, and shall not be allowed to reenter the program.**

37           **7. One year following the promulgation of rules and regulations**  
38 **implementing the provisions of this section, the department shall**  
39 **submit a report to the general assembly, and such report shall contain**  
40 **the number of noncustodial parents who completed the program and**  
41 **obtained gainful employment, the number of noncustodial parents who**  
42 **completed the program and continually met their child support**  
43 **obligations, the number of noncustodial parents who were removed**  
44 **from the program, the number of custodial parents who voluntarily left**  
45 **the program prior to completion, and any recommendations of the**  
46 **department for eliminating, reducing, modifying, or continuing the**  
47 **program.**

48           **8. Within one hundred eighty days of August 28, 2015, the**  
49 **department shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement the**  
50 **provisions of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is**  
51 **defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated**  
52 **in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is**  
53 **subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section**  
54 **536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable, and if any of**  
55 **the powers vested with the general assembly under chapter 536 to**

56 review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule  
57 are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking  
58 authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2015, shall  
59 be invalid and void.

60 9. The provisions of this section shall expire on August 28, 2018.

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Unofficial

Bill

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