

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 910

89TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR CASKEY.

Read 1st time February 12, 1998, and 1,000 copies ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

S3819.011

AN ACT

To repeal sections 104.540, 210.826, 210.830, and 454.432, RSMo 1994, and sections 193.215, 210.822, 287.820, 454.390, 454.408, 454.413, 454.440, 454.455, 454.460, 454.490, 454.505 and 476.688, RSMo Supp. 1997, relating to child support, and to enact in lieu thereof eighteen new sections relating to the same subject.

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

Section A. Sections 104.540, 210.826, 210.830, and 454.432, RSMo 1994, and sections 193.215, 210.822, 287.820, 454.390, 454.408, 454.413, 454.440, 454.455, 454.460, 454.490, 454.505 and 476.688, RSMo Supp. 1997, are repealed and eighteen new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 104.540, 193.215, 210.822, 210.826, 210.830, 210.844, 287.820, 454.390, 454.408, 454.413, 454.432, 454.440, 454.455, 454.460, 454.490, 454.505, 454.999 and 476.688, to read as follows:

104.540. 1. All premium payments and deferred compensation provided for under sections 104.320 to 104.540 are hereby made obligations of the state of Missouri. No alteration, amendment, or repeal of sections 104.320 to 104.540 shall affect the then existing rights of members and beneficiaries, but shall be effective only as to rights which would otherwise accrue hereunder as a result of services rendered by an employee after such alteration, amendment, or repeal.

2. Any annuity, benefits, funds, property, or rights created by, or accruing or paid to, any person under the provisions of sections 104.320 to 104.540 shall not be subject to execution, garnishment, attachment, writ of sequestration, or any other process or claim whatsoever, and shall be unassignable, except [that] **with regard to the collection of child support or**

EXPLANATION--Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

maintenance. Any retired member of the system may request the executive director of the system, in writing, to withhold and pay on his behalf to the proper person, from each of his monthly retirement benefit payments, if the payment is large enough, the contribution due from the retired member to any group providing prepaid hospital care and any group providing prepaid medical and surgical care and any group providing life insurance when such group is composed entirely of members of the system.

3. The executive director of the system shall, when requested in writing by a retired member, withhold and pay over the funds authorized in subsection 2 of this section until such time as the request to do so is revoked by the death or written revocation of the retired member.

193.215. 1. A certificate or report registered pursuant to sections 193.005 to 193.325 may be amended only pursuant to the provisions of sections 193.005 to 193.325, and regulations adopted by the department.

2. A certificate or report that is amended pursuant to this section shall be marked "Amended" except as otherwise provided in this section. The date of amendment and a summary description of the evidence submitted in support of the amendment shall be endorsed on or made part of the record.

3. Upon receipt of a certified copy of an order of a court of competent jurisdiction changing the name of a person born in this state and upon request of such person or such person's parents, guardian, or legal representative, the state registrar shall amend the certificate of birth to show the new name. The court order shall include such facts as are necessary to locate and identify the certificate of birth of the person whose name is being changed.

4. When an applicant does not submit the minimum documentation required in the regulations for amending a vital record or when the state registrar has reasonable cause to question the validity or adequacy of the applicant's sworn statements or the documentary evidence, and if the deficiencies are not corrected, the state registrar shall not amend the vital record and shall advise the applicant of the reason for this action and the applicant's right of appeal to a court of competent jurisdiction.

5. When a certificate or report is amended pursuant to this section, the state registrar shall report the amendment to any other custodians of the vital record and their record shall be amended accordingly.

6. Upon written request of both parents and receipt of a sworn acknowledgment of paternity notarized and signed by both parents of a child born out of wedlock, the state registrar shall amend the certificate of birth to show such paternity. The acknowledgment affidavit form shall be developed by the state registrar and shall include the minimum requirements prescribed by the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to 42 U.S.C. section 652(a)(7). The acknowledgment form shall include provisions to allow the parents to change the surname of the child and such surname shall be changed on the birth record if the parents elect

to change the child's surname. The signature of the parents shall be notarized or the signature shall be witnessed by at least two disinterested adults whose signatures and addresses shall be plainly written thereon. The form shall be accompanied by oral **notice, which may be provided through the use of video or audio equipment**, and written notice to the mother and putative father of:

(1) The alternatives to, the legal consequences of, and the rights and responsibilities that arise from signing the acknowledgment;

(2) The benefits of having the child's paternity established; and

(3) The availability of paternity establishment and child support enforcement services. A rescission of acknowledgment form shall be filed with the bureau of vital records pursuant to section 210.823, RSMo, to vacate the legal finding of paternity. The bureau shall file all rescissions and forward a copy of each to the division of child support enforcement. The birth record shall only be changed pursuant to this subsection upon an order of the court or the division of child support enforcement.

7. The department shall offer voluntary paternity establishment services.

8. Upon receipt of a certified copy of an order of a court of competent jurisdiction changing the name of a person born in this state and upon request of such person or such person's parents, guardian or legal representative, the state registrar shall amend the certificate of birth to show the new name.

9. Upon receipt of a certified copy of an order of a court of competent jurisdiction indicating the sex of an individual born in this state has been changed by surgical procedure and that such individual's name has been changed, the certificate of birth of such individual shall be amended.

210.822. 1. A man shall be presumed to be the natural father of a child if:

(1) He and the child's natural mother are or have been married to each other and the child is born during the marriage, or within three hundred days after the marriage is terminated by death, annulment, declaration of invalidity, or dissolution, or after a decree of separation is entered by a court; or

(2) Before the child's birth, he and the child's natural mother have attempted to marry each other by a marriage solemnized in apparent compliance with the law, although the attempted marriage is or may be declared invalid, and:

(a) If the attempted marriage may be declared invalid only by a court, the child is born during the attempted marriage or within three hundred days after its termination by death, annulment, declaration of invalidity or dissolution; or

(b) If the marriage is invalid without a court order, the child is born within three hundred days after the termination of cohabitation; or

(3) After the child's birth, he and the child's natural mother have married or attempted

to marry each other by a marriage solemnized in apparent compliance with law, although the marriage is or may be declared invalid, and:

(a) He has acknowledged his paternity of the child in writing filed with the bureau; or

(b) With his consent, he is named as the child's father on the child's birth certificate [before July 1, 1997]; or

(c) He is obligated to support the child pursuant to a written voluntary promise or by court order; or

(4) An expert concludes that the blood tests show that the alleged parent is not excluded and that the probability of paternity is ninety-eight percent or higher, using a prior probability of 0.5.

2. A presumption pursuant to this section may be rebutted in an appropriate action only by clear and convincing evidence, except that a presumption under subsection 1 of this section that arises from a blood test or the filing of an acknowledgment of paternity in a state or territory in which the blood test or the filing creates a conclusive presumption by law also has conclusive effect in Missouri. If two or more presumptions arise which conflict with each other, the presumption which on the facts is founded on the weightier considerations of policy and logic controls. The presumption is rebutted by a court decree establishing the paternity of the child by another man.

210.826. 1. A child, his natural mother, a man presumed to be his father under [subdivision (1), (2), or (3) of] subsection 1 of section 210.822, a man alleging himself to be a father, **any person having physical or legal custody of a child** or the division of child support enforcement may bring an action at any time for the purpose of declaring the existence or nonexistence of the father and child relationship presumed under [subdivision (1), (2), or (3) of] subsection 1 of section 210.822.

2. [Any interested party may bring an action at any time for the purpose of determining the existence or nonexistence of the father and child relationship presumed under subdivision (4) of subsection 1 of section 210.822.

3.] An action to determine the existence of the father and child relationship with respect to a child who has no presumed father under section 210.822 may be brought by the child, the mother or the person who has legal custody of the child, the division of child support enforcement, the personal representative or a parent of the mother if the mother has died, a man alleging himself to be the father, or the personal representative or a parent of the alleged father if the alleged father has died or is a minor.

[4.] **3.** Regardless of its terms, an agreement, other than an agreement approved by the court in accordance with subsection 2 of section 210.838, between an alleged or presumed father and the mother or child, does not bar an action under this section.

[5.] **4.** If an action under this section is brought before the birth of the child, all proceedings shall be stayed until after the birth, except service of process and the taking of

depositions to perpetuate testimony.

210.830. The child shall be made a party to any action commenced under sections 210.817 to 210.852. If he is a minor, he may be represented by a next friend appointed for him for any such action. The child's mother [or father or], the division of child support enforcement **or any person having physical or legal custody of the child** may represent him as his next friend. A guardian ad litem shall be appointed for the child only if child abuse or neglect is alleged, or if the child is named as a defendant, or if the court determines that the interests of the child and his next friend are in conflict. The natural mother, each man presumed to be the father under section 210.822, and each man alleged to be the natural father, shall be made parties or, if not subject to the jurisdiction of the court, shall be given notice of the action in a manner prescribed by the court and an opportunity to be heard. The court may align the parties.

210.844. In a proceeding to determine the existence of the parent and child relationship brought pursuant to the provisions of sections 454.010 to 454.360, RSMo or pursuant to the provisions of sections 454.850 to 454.997, RSMo, the provisions of sections 210.817, 210.822 and 210.834, RSMo, shall apply, but no other provisions of sections 210.818 through 210.852, RSMo, shall apply.

287.820. 1. Retirement benefits shall be paid to the retired person in equal monthly installments during the remainder of the person's life. The annual amount of benefits paid shall be equal to fifty percent of the highest salary received during the person's period of service.

2. Except as provided in section 104.312, RSMo, any annuity, benefits, funds, property or rights created by, or accruing to, any person under the provisions of sections 287.812 to 287.855 shall not be subject to execution, garnishment, attachment, writ of sequestration, or any other process or claim whatsoever, and shall be unassignable, except [that] **with regard to the collection of child support or maintenance**. Any retired member of the system may request the executive director of the system, in writing, to withhold and pay on the retired member's behalf to the proper person, from each of the retired member's monthly retirement benefit payments, if the payment is large enough, the contribution due from the retired member to any group providing prepaid hospital care and any group providing prepaid medical and surgical care when such group is composed entirely of members of the system.

3. The executive director of the system shall, when requested in writing by a retired member, withhold and pay over the funds authorized in subsection 2 of this section until such time as the request to do so is revoked by the death or written revocation of the retired member.

4. Beginning January 1, 1989, any person who was employed prior to August 28, 1997, who is receiving or thereafter shall receive retirement benefits pursuant to sections 287.812 to 287.855 upon application to the board of trustees of the Missouri state employees' retirement system shall be made, constituted, appointed, and employed by the board as a special consultant on the problems of retirement, aging and other state matters for the remainder of the person's life. Upon

request of the board or the court from which the person retired, the consultant shall give opinions or be available to give opinions in writing or orally in response to such requests. As compensation the consultant shall receive in addition to all other compensation provided by law a percentage increase in compensation each year computed upon the total amount that the consultant received in the previous year from state retirement benefits of eighty percent of the increase in the consumer price index calculated in the manner specified in section 104.415, RSMo. Any such annual increase in compensation, however, shall not exceed five percent, nor be less than four percent. The total increase in compensation pursuant to the provisions of this subsection to each special consultant who also receives benefits pursuant to sections 287.812 to 287.855 shall not exceed sixty-five percent of the initial benefit that the person receives after August 31, 1987. The total increase in compensation pursuant to the provisions of this subsection to each special consultant who also receives benefits pursuant to sections 287.812 to 287.855 shall not exceed sixty-five percent of the initial benefit that the person receives after January 1, 1989.

5. As additional compensation for the services described in subsection 4 of this section, each special consultant shall receive an annual percentage increase in the retirement benefit payable equal to eighty percent of the increase in the consumer price index. Such benefit increase, however, shall not exceed five percent of the retirement benefit payable prior to the increase. The annual benefit increase described in this subsection shall not be effective until the year in which the special consultant reaches the limit on total annual increases provided by subsection 4 of this section. During that year on the anniversary date of the special consultant's retirement, the special consultant shall receive the benefit increase described in subsection 4 of this section or this subsection, whichever is greater. After that year, the special consultant shall receive the annual benefit increase described in this subsection. Any special consultant who reaches the limit on total annual benefit increases provided by subsection 4 of this section prior to October 1, 1996, shall receive the benefit increase described in this subsection on September 1, 1997. Any special consultant who reaches the limit on total annual benefit increases provided by subsection 4 of this section on or after October 1, 1996, but before September 1, 1997, shall receive the benefit increase described in this subsection beginning on the anniversary date of the special consultant's retirement following September 1, 1997. In no event shall any retroactive annual benefit increases be paid under this subsection to any special consultant who reached the limit provided in subsection 4 of this section prior to August 28, 1997.

6. Each person who is employed for the first time as an administrative law judge or a legal advisor on or after August 28, 1997, and retires shall be entitled annually to a percentage increase in the retirement benefit payable equal to eighty percent of the increase in the consumer price index. Such benefit increase, however, shall not exceed five percent of the retirement benefit payable prior to the increase.

7. Survivors of members described in subsection 6 of this section shall be entitled to the

annual benefit increase described in subsection 6 of this section.

8. The compensation provided for in this section shall be payable in equal monthly installments and shall be consolidated with any retirement benefits. The compensation shall be paid from the retirement fund. The retirement fund shall be funded on an actuarial basis for such benefits as prescribed in section 287.845.

454.390. The division shall [respond within five business days to] **use high-volume automated administrative enforcement, to the same extent as used in intrastate cases, in response to** a request made by another state child support agency to enforce a support order **and promptly report the results to the requesting state.** If the division provides assistance to another state in such a case, neither this state nor the requesting state shall consider the case to be transferred to its caseload; however, the division shall maintain records of the number of such interstate requests for assistance, the number of cases for which support was collected and the amounts of such collections. The division is authorized to transmit to another state, by electronic or other means, a request for assistance in a case involving the enforcement of a support order. Such request shall:

(1) Include information to enable the receiving state to compare the information about the case to the information in state databases; and

(2) Constitute a certification by the division of the arrearage amount under the order and that the division has complied with all applicable procedural due process requirements as provided for in this chapter.

454.408. The division of child support enforcement:

(1) Shall determine whether a person who has applied for or is receiving assistance from a program funded pursuant to Part A **or Part E** of Title IV **of the Social Security Act**, [or] Title XIX of the Social Security Act **or the Food Stamp Act** is cooperating in good faith with the division in establishing the paternity of, or in establishing, modifying or enforcing a support order for any child of such person by providing the division with the name of the noncustodial parent or any other information the division may require. The division may, by regulation, excuse compliance with the provisions of this subsection on a case-by-case basis for good cause or other exceptions as the division may deem to be in the best interest of the child;

(2) Shall require as a condition of cooperation that such person supply additional information deemed necessary by the division and appear at any interviews, hearings or legal proceedings;

(3) Shall require as a condition of cooperation that such person and such person's child submit to genetic testing pursuant to a judicial or administrative order;

(4) May request that such person sign a voluntary acknowledgment of paternity, after notice of the rights and consequences of such an acknowledgment, but may not require such person to sign an acknowledgment or otherwise relinquish the right to a genetic test as a condition

of cooperation and eligibility for assistance from a state program funded pursuant to Part A **or Part E** of Title IV **of the Social Security Act**, [or] Title XIX of the Social Security Act **or the Food Stamp Act**; and

(5) Shall promptly notify such person, the division of family services or the division of medical services of every determination made pursuant to this section, including a determination that such person is not cooperative and the basis for such determination.

454.413. 1. Each party to a paternity or child support proceeding establishing, modifying or enforcing a support order pursuant to chapter 210, RSMo, chapter 211, RSMo, chapter 452, RSMo, or chapter 454, shall file with the [court or division where such proceeding is pending, and with the court or division for the] state case registry upon entry of an order, information on the location and identity of such party including the party's social security number, residential address, mailing address, telephone number, driver's license number and the name, address and telephone number of the party's employer. If such information changes, such party shall provide the new information to the [court or division] **state case registry** within thirty days of any such change.

2. In any subsequent child support enforcement action between the parties, the court or division [may] **shall** deem that the due process requirements for notice and service of process are met with respect to such party upon a sufficient showing that diligent effort has been made to ascertain the location of a party, and written notice has been delivered to the most recent residential or employer address of such party filed with the [court or division] **state case registry**.

454.432. 1. The circuit clerk shall record credits on child support trusteeship records established pursuant to this chapter or chapter 452, RSMo, for amounts not received by the clerk only to the extent permitted by this section.

2. Credits allowed under this section shall include, but not be limited to, in-kind payments as provided in this section, amounts collected from an obligor from federal and state income tax refunds, state lottery payments, social security payments, unemployment and workers' compensation benefits, income withholdings authorized by law, liens, garnishment actions, and any other amounts required to be credited by statute or case law.

3. Credits shall be recorded on the trusteeship record for payments received by the division of child support enforcement and, at the discretion of the division of child support enforcement, and upon receipt of waivers requested pursuant to subsection 4 of this section, credits may be given on state debt judgments obtained pursuant to subsection 1 of section 454.465 for completion of such activities as job training and education, if mutually agreed upon by the division and the obligor. The circuit clerk shall make such credits upon receipt of paper or electronic documentation of the amount of the credit from the division and verification of the authenticity of the documentation by the circuit clerk.

4. The director of the department of social services shall apply to the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services for all waivers of requirements under federal law necessary to implement the provisions of subsection 3 of this section.

5. Credits shall be entered on the trusteeship record for direct and in-kind payments received by the custodial parent when [all parties to the support order file] **the custodial parent files** an affidavit stating the particulars of the direct and in-kind payments to be credited on the court record with the circuit clerk; however, no such credits shall be entered for periods during which child support payments are assigned to the state pursuant to law. Such credits may include, but shall not be limited to, partial and complete satisfaction of judgment for support arrearages.

6. Nothing contained in this section shall prohibit satisfaction of judgment as provided for in sections 511.570 to 511.620, RSMo, and by supreme court rule.

7. Application for the federal earned income tax credit shall, when applicable, be required as a condition of participating in the alternative child support credit programs of subsection 3 of this section.

454.440. 1. As used in this section, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following terms mean:

(1) "Business" includes any corporation, partnership, association, individual, and labor or other organization including, but not limited to, a public utility or cable company;

(2) "Division", the Missouri division of child support enforcement of the department of social services;

(3) "Financial entity" includes any bank, trust company, savings and loan association, credit union, insurance company, or any corporation, association, partnership, or individual receiving or accepting money or its equivalent on deposit as a business;

(4) "Government agency", any department, board, bureau or other agency of this state or any political subdivision of the state;

(5) "Information" includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following items:

(a) Full name of the parent;

(b) Social security number of the parent;

(c) Date of birth of the parent;

(d) Last known mailing and residential address of the parent;

(e) Amount of wages, salaries, earnings or commissions earned by or paid to the parent;

(f) Number of dependents declared by the parent on state and federal tax information and reporting forms;

(g) Name of company, policy numbers and dependent coverage for any medical insurance carried by or on behalf of the parent;

(h) Name of company, policy numbers and cash values, if any, for any life insurance

policies or annuity contracts, carried by or on behalf of, or owned by, the parent;

(i) Any retirement benefits, pension plans or stock purchase plans maintained on behalf of, or owned by, the parent and the values thereof, employee contributions thereto, and the extent to which each benefit or plan is vested;

(j) Vital statistics, including records of marriage, birth or divorce;

(k) Tax and revenue records, including information on residence address, employer, income or assets;

(l) Records concerning real or personal property;

(m) Records of occupational, professional or recreational licenses or permits;

(n) Records concerning the ownership and control of corporations, partnerships or other businesses;

(o) Employment security records;

(p) Records concerning motor vehicles;

(q) Records of assets or liabilities;

(r) Corrections records;

(s) Names and addresses of employers of parents;

(t) Motor vehicle records; and

(u) Law enforcement records;

(6) "Parent", a biological or adoptive parent, including a presumed or putative father.

2. For the purpose of locating and determining financial resources of the parents relating to establishment of paternity or to establish, modify or enforce support orders, the division or other state IV-D agency may request and receive information from the federal Parent Locator Service, from available records in other states, territories and the District of Columbia, from the records of all government agencies, and from businesses and financial entities. A request for information from a public utility or cable television company shall be made by subpoena authorized pursuant to this chapter. The government agencies, businesses, and financial entities shall provide information, if known or chronicled in their business records, notwithstanding any other provision of law making the information confidential. In addition, the division [or other state IV-D agency may] **may use all sources of information and available records and**, pursuant to agreement with the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, or the secretary's designee, request and receive from the federal Parent Locator Service information [authorized] pursuant to 42 U.S.C. [Section] **Sections 653 and 663**, to determine the whereabouts of any parent or child when such information is to be used to locate the parent or child to enforce any state or federal law with respect to the unlawful taking or restraining of a child, or **of making or** enforcing a child custody or visitation order.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 2 of this section, no financial entity shall be required to provide the information requested by the division or other state IV-D agency unless

the division or other state IV-D agency alleges that the parent about whom the information is sought is an officer, agent, member, employee, depositor, customer or the insured of the financial institution, or unless the division or other state IV-D agency has complied with the provisions of section 660.330, RSMo.

4. Any business or financial entity which has received a request from the division or other state IV-D agency as provided by subsections 2 and 3 of this section shall provide the requested information or a statement that any or all of the requested information is not known or available to the business or financial entity, within sixty days of receipt of the request and shall be liable to the state for civil penalties up to one hundred dollars for each day after such sixty-day period in which it fails to provide the information so requested. Upon request of the division or other state IV-D agency, the attorney general shall bring an action in a circuit court of competent jurisdiction to recover the civil penalty. The court shall have the authority to determine the amount of the civil penalty to be assessed.

5. Any business or financial entity, or any officer, agent or employee of such entity, participating in good faith in providing information requested pursuant to subsections 2 and 3 of this section shall be immune from liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise result from the release of such information to the division.

6. Upon request of the division or other state IV-D agency, any parent shall complete a statement under oath, upon such form as the division or other state IV-D agency may specify, providing information, including, but not necessarily limited to, the parent's monthly income, the parent's total income for the previous year, the number and name of the parent's dependents and the amount of support the parent provides to each, the nature and extent of the parent's assets, and such other information pertinent to the support of the dependent as the division or other state IV-D agency may request. Upon request of the division or other state IV-D agency, such statements shall be completed annually. Failure to comply with this subsection is a class A misdemeanor.

7. The disclosure of any information provided to the business or financial entity by the division or other state IV-D agency, or the disclosure of any information regarding the identity of any applicant for or recipient of public assistance, by an officer or employee of any business or financial entity, or by any person receiving such information from such employee or officer is prohibited. Any person violating this subsection is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

8. Any person who willfully requests, obtains or seeks to obtain information pursuant to this section under false pretenses, or who willfully communicates or seeks to communicate such information to any agency or person except pursuant to this chapter, is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

9. For the protection of applicants and recipients of services pursuant to sections 454.400 to 454.645, all officers and employees of, and persons and entities under contract to, the state of

Missouri are prohibited, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, from disclosing any information obtained by them in the discharge of their official duties relative to the identity of applicants for or recipients of services or relating to proceedings or actions to establish paternity or to establish or enforce support, or relating to the contents of any records, files, papers and communications, except in the administration of the child support program or the administration of public assistance, including civil or criminal proceedings or investigations conducted in connection with the administration of the child support program or the administration of public assistance. Such officers, employees, persons or entities are specifically prohibited from disclosing any information relating to the location of one party to another party:

(1) If a protective order has been entered against the other party; or

(2) If there is reason to believe that such disclosure of information may result in physical or emotional harm to the other party. In any judicial proceedings, except such proceedings as are directly concerned with the administration of these programs, such information obtained in the discharge of official duties relative to the identity of applicants for or recipients of child support services or public assistance, and records, files, papers, communications and their contents shall be confidential and not admissible in evidence. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the circuit clerk from releasing information, not otherwise privileged, from court records for reasons other than the administration of the child support program, if such information does not identify any individual as an applicant for or recipient of services pursuant to sections 454.400 to 454.645. Anyone who purposely or knowingly violates this subsection is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

454.455. 1. In any case wherein an order for child support has been entered and the legal custodian and obligee pursuant to the order relinquishes physical custody of the child to a caretaker relative without obtaining a modification of legal custody, and the caretaker relative makes an assignment of support rights to the division of family services in order to receive aid to families with dependent children benefits, the relinquishment and the assignment, by operation of law, shall transfer the child support obligation pursuant to the order to the division in behalf of the state. The assignment shall terminate when the caretaker relative no longer has physical custody of the child, except for those unpaid support obligations still owing to the state pursuant to the assignment at that time.

2. As used in subsection 1 of this section, the term "caretaker relative" includes only those persons listed in subdivision (2) of subsection 1 of section 208.040, RSMo.

3. If an order for child support has been entered, no assignment of support has been made, and the legal custodian and obligee under the order relinquishes physical custody of the child to a caretaker relative without obtaining a modification of legal custody, **or the child is placed by the court in the legal custody of a state agency**, the division may, thirty days after the transfer of custody and upon notice to the obligor and obligee, direct the obligor or other payor to

change the payee to the caretaker relative or appropriate state agency. Such order shall terminate when the caretaker relative no longer has physical custody of the child, **or the state agency is relieved of legal custody**, except for the unpaid support obligations still owed to the caretaker relative.

4. If there has been an assignment of support to an agency or division of the state or a requirement to pay through a state disbursement unit, the division may, upon notice to the obligor and obligee, direct the obligor or other payor to change the payee to the appropriate state agency.

454.460. As used in sections 454.460 to 454.520, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following terms mean:

(1) "Court", any circuit court of this state and any court or agency of any other state having jurisdiction to determine the liability of persons for the support of another person;

(2) "Court order", any judgment, decree, or order of any court which orders payment of a set or determinable amount of support money;

(3) "Department", the department of social services of the state of Missouri;

(4) "Dependent child", any person under the age of twenty-one who is not otherwise emancipated, self-supporting, married, or a member of the armed forces of the United States;

(5) "Director", the director of the division of child support enforcement, or the director's designee;

(6) "Division", the division of child support enforcement of the department of social services of the state of Missouri;

(7) "IV-D agency", an agency designated by a state to administer programs under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act;

(8) "IV-D case", a case in which services are being provided pursuant to section 454.400;

(9) "Obligee", any person to whom payments are required to be made pursuant to the terms of a court order for a child, spouse or former spouse;

(10) "Obligor", any person required to make payments pursuant to the terms of a court order for a child, spouse or former spouse;

(11) "Parent", the biological or adoptive father or mother of a dependent child;

(12) "Public assistance", any cash or benefit under Part IV-A or Title XIX of the federal Social Security Act paid by the department to or for the benefit of any dependent child or any public assistance assigned to the state;

(13) "State", any state or political subdivision, territory or possession of the United States, District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

(14) "Support order", a judgment, decree or order, whether temporary, final or subject to modification, issued by a court or administrative agency of competent jurisdiction for the support and maintenance of a child, including a child who has attained the age of majority under the law of the issuing state, or **[a child and] of** the parent with whom the child is living and providing

monetary support, health care, child care, arrearages or reimbursement for such child, and which may include related costs and fees, interest and penalties, income withholding, attorneys' fees and other relief.

454.490. 1. A true copy of any order entered by the director pursuant to sections 454.460 to 454.997, along with a true copy of the return of service, may be filed with the clerk of the circuit court in the county in which either the parent or the dependent child resides **or in the county where the support order was filed**. Upon filing, the clerk shall enter the order in the judgment docket. Upon docketing, the order shall have all the force, effect, and attributes of a docketed order or decree of the circuit court, including, but not limited to, lien effect and enforceability by supplementary proceedings, contempt of court, execution and garnishment. Any administrative order or decision of the division of child support enforcement filed in the office of the circuit clerk of the court shall not be required to be signed by an attorney, as provided by supreme court rule of civil procedures 55.03(a), or required to have any further pleading other than the director's order.

2. In addition to any other provision to enforce an order docketed pursuant to this section or any other support order of the court, the court may, upon petition by the division, require that an obligor who owes past due support [to a child receiving assistance under Part IV-A of the Social Security Act] to pay support in accordance with a plan approved by the court, or if the obligor is subject to such plan and is not incapacitated, the court may require the obligor to participate in work activities.

3. In addition to any other provision to enforce an order docketed pursuant to this section or any other support order of the court, division or other IV-D agency, the director may order that an obligor who owes past due support [to a child receiving assistance under Part IV-A of the Social Security Act] to pay support in accordance with a plan approved by the director, or if the obligor is subject to such plan and is not incapacitated, the director may order the obligor to participate in work activities. The order of the director shall be filed with a court pursuant to subsection 1 of this section and shall be enforceable as an order of the court.

4. As used in this section, "work activities" include:

- (1) Unsubsidized employment;
- (2) Subsidized private sector employment;
- (3) Subsidized public sector employment;
- (4) Work experience (including work associated with the refurbishing of publicly assisted housing) if sufficient private sector employment is not available;
- (5) On-the-job training;
- (6) Job search and readiness assistance;
- (7) Community services programs;
- (8) Vocational educational training, not to exceed twelve months for any individual;

(9) Job skills training directly related to employment;

(10) Education directly related to employment for an individual who has not received a high school diploma or its equivalent;

(11) Satisfactory attendance at a secondary school or course of study leading to a certificate of general equivalence for an individual who has not completed secondary school or received such a certificate; or

(12) The provision of child care services to an individual who is participating in a community service program.

454.505. 1. In addition to any other remedy provided by law for the enforcement of support, if [an] **a support** order has been entered by the director pursuant to sections 454.460 to 454.997, the director shall issue an order directing any employer or other payor of the parent to withhold and pay over to the [department] **division** or the clerk of the circuit court in the county in which [the order of the director was docketed pursuant to section 454.490] **a trusteeship is or will be established**, money due or to become due the obligated parent in an amount not to exceed federal wage garnishment limitations. For administrative child support orders issued pursuant to sections other than section 454.476, the director shall not issue an order to withhold and pay over in any case in which:

(1) One of the parties demonstrates, and the director finds, that there is good cause not to require immediate income withholding. For purposes of this subdivision, any finding that there is good cause not to require immediate withholding shall be based on, at least, a written determination and an explanation by the director that implementing immediate wage withholding would not be in the best interests of the child and proof of timely payments of previously ordered support in cases involving the modification of support orders; or

(2) A written agreement is reached between the parties that provides for an alternative payment arrangement. If the income of an obligor is not withheld as of the effective date of the support order, pursuant to subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection, or otherwise, such obligor's income shall become subject to withholding pursuant to this section, without further exception, on the date on which the obligor becomes delinquent in maintenance or child support payments in an amount equal to one month's total support obligation.

2. An order entered pursuant to this section shall recite the amount required to be paid as continuing support, the amount to be paid monthly for arrearages and the social security number of the obligor if available. In addition, the order shall contain a provision that the obligor shall notify the division of child support enforcement regarding the availability of medical insurance coverage through an employer or a group plan, provide the name of the insurance provider when coverage is available, and inform the division of any change in access to such insurance coverage. A copy of sections 454.460 and 454.505 shall be appended to the order. A copy of such order shall be filed with the circuit court in the county in which [the administrative

support order was filed pursuant to section 454.490] **the trusteeship is or will be established.**

3. An order entered pursuant to this section shall be served on the employer or other payor by certified mail, return receipt requested or may be issued through electronic means, and shall be binding on the employer or other payor two weeks after mailing or electronic issuance of such service. A copy of the order and a notice of property exempt from withholding shall be mailed to the obligor at the obligor's last known address. The notice shall advise the obligor that the withholding has commenced and the procedures to contest such withholding pursuant to section 454.475 on the grounds that such withholding or the amount withheld is improper due to a mistake of fact by requesting a hearing thirty days from mailing the notice. At such a hearing the certified copy of the court order and the sworn or certified statement of arrearages shall constitute prima facie evidence that the director's order is valid and enforceable. If a prima facie case is established, the obligor may only assert mistake of fact as a defense. For purposes of this section, "mistake of fact" means an error in the amount of the withholding or an error as to the identity of the obligor. The obligor shall have the burden of proof on such issues. The obligor may not obtain relief from the withholding by paying the overdue support. The employer or other payor shall withhold from the earnings or other income of each obligor the amount specified in the order, and may deduct an additional sum not to exceed six dollars as reimbursement for costs, except that the total amount withheld shall not exceed the limitations contained in the federal Consumer Credit Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. 1673(b). The employer or other payor shall transmit the payments as directed in the order within seven business days of the date the earnings, money due or other income was payable to the obligor. For purposes of this section, "business day" means a day that state offices are open for regular business. The employer or other payor shall, along with the amounts transmitted, provide the date the amount was withheld from each obligor. If the order does not contain the social security number of the obligor, the employer or other payor shall not be liable for withholding from the incorrect obligor.

4. If the order is served on a payor other than an employer, it shall be a lien against any money due or to become due the obligated parent which is in the possession of the payor on the date of service or which may come into the possession of the payor after service until further order of the director, except for any deposits held in two or more names in a financial institution.

5. The department shall notify an employer or other payor upon whom such an order has been directed whenever all arrearages have been paid in full, and whenever, for any other reason, the amount required to be withheld and paid over to the department pursuant to the order as to future pay periods is to be reduced or redirected. If the parent's support obligation is required to be paid monthly and the parent's pay periods are at more frequent intervals, the employer or other payor may, at the request of the parent and with the consent of the director, withhold and pay over to the department, an equal amount at each pay period cumulatively sufficient to comply with the withholding order.

6. An order issued pursuant to subsection 1 of this section shall be a continuing order and shall remain in effect and be binding upon any employer or other payor upon whom it is directed until a further order of the director. Such orders shall terminate when all children for whom the support order applies are emancipated or deceased, or the support obligation otherwise ends, and all arrearages are paid. No order to withhold shall be terminated solely because the obligor has fully paid arrearages.

7. An order issued pursuant to subsection 1 of this section shall have priority over any other legal process pursuant to state law against the same wages, except that where the other legal process is an order issued pursuant to this section or section 452.350, RSMo, the processes shall run concurrently, up to applicable wage withholding limitations. If concurrently running wage withholding processes for the collection of support obligations would cause the amounts withheld from the wages of the obligor to exceed applicable wage withholding limitations, the employer shall first satisfy current support obligations by dividing the amount available to be withheld among the orders on a pro rata basis using the percentages derived from the relationship each current support order amount has to the sum of all current child support obligations. Thereafter, arrearages shall be satisfied using the same pro rata distribution procedure used for distributing current support, up to the applicable limitation.

8. No employer or other payor who complies with an order entered pursuant to this section shall be liable to the parent, or to any other person claiming rights derived from the parent, for wrongful withholding. An employer or other payor who fails or refuses to withhold or pay the amounts as ordered pursuant to this section shall be liable to the party holding the support rights in an amount equal to the amount which became due the parent during the relevant period and which, pursuant to the order, should have been withheld and paid over. The director is hereby authorized to bring an action in circuit court to determine the liability of an employer or other payor for failure to withhold or pay the amounts as ordered. If a court finds that a violation has occurred, the court may fine the employer in an amount not to exceed five hundred dollars. The court may also enter a judgment against the employer for the amounts to be withheld or paid, court costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

9. The remedy provided by this section shall be available where the state or any of its political subdivisions is the employer or other payor of the obligated parent in the same manner and to the same extent as where the employer or other payor is a private party.

10. An employer shall not discharge, or refuse to hire or otherwise discipline an employee as a result of an order to withhold and pay over certain money authorized by this section. If any such employee is discharged within thirty days of the date upon which an order to withhold and pay over certain money is to take effect, there shall arise a rebuttable presumption that such discharge was a result of such order. This presumption shall be overcome only by clear, cogent and convincing evidence produced by the employer that the employee was not terminated because

of the order to withhold and pay over certain money. The director is hereby authorized to bring an action in circuit court to determine whether the discharge constitutes a violation of this subsection. If the court finds that a violation has occurred, the court may enter an order against the employer requiring reinstatement of the employee and may fine the employer in an amount not to exceed one hundred fifty dollars. Further, the court may enter judgment against the employer for the back wages, costs, attorney's fees, and for the amount of child support which should have been withheld and paid over during the period of time the employee was wrongfully discharged.

11. If an obligor for whom an order to withhold has been issued pursuant to subsection 1 of this section terminates the obligor's employment, the employer shall, within ten days of the termination, notify the division of the termination, shall provide to the division the last known address of the obligor, if known to the employer, and shall provide to the department the name and address of the obligor's new employer, if known. When the department determines the identity of the obligor's new employer, the director shall issue an order to the new employer as provided in subsection 1 of this section.

12. If an employer or other payor is withholding amounts for more than one order issued pursuant to subsection 1 of this section, the employer or other payor may transmit all such withholdings which are to be remitted to the same circuit clerk or other collection unit as one payment together with a separate list identifying obligors for whom a withholding has been made and the amount withheld from each obligor so listed, and the withholding date or dates for each obligor.

13. For purposes of this section, "income" means any periodic form of payment due to an individual, regardless of source, including wages, salaries, commissions, bonuses, worker's compensation benefits, disability benefits, payments pursuant to a pension or a retirement program, and interest.

14. The employer shall withhold funds as directed in the notice, except if an employer receives an income withholding order issued by another state, the employer shall apply the income withholding law of the state of the obligor's principal place of employment in determining:

- (1) The employer's fee for processing an income withholding order;
- (2) The maximum amount permitted to be withheld from the obligor's income;
- (3) The time periods within which the employer shall implement the income withholding order and forward the child support payments;
- (4) The priorities for withholding and allocating income withheld for multiple child support obligees; and
- (5) Any withholding terms and conditions not specified in the order.

15. If the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services promulgates a final standard format for an employer income withholding notice, the director shall use such notice

prescribed by the secretary.

454.999. The provisions of sections 210.822 and 210.834, RSMo, shall apply to a proceeding under sections 454.850 to 454.997, but no other provisions of sections 210.817 through 210.852, RSMo, shall apply.

476.688. Except as provided in section 104.312, RSMo, the compensation provided for in sections 476.455 to 476.688, and any benefits consolidated with the compensation, shall be treated like any other state retirement benefits payable by the Missouri state employees' retirement system and shall not be subject to execution, garnishment, attachment, writ of sequestration or any other process or claim whatsoever, and shall be unassignable **except with regard to the collection of child support or maintenance.**

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