

**SENATE, No. 995**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**217th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 4, 2016

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator PETER J. BARNES, III**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Enacts new "Uniform Interstate Family Support Act"; repeals previous uniform law.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning support proceedings, supplementing Title 2A of  
2 the New Jersey Statutes, amending P.L.1996, c.7 and P.L.1998,  
3 c.1 and repealing P.L.1998, c.2.  
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

7 ARTICLE 1

8 GENERAL PROVISIONS  
9

10 1. (New section) This act may be cited as the “Uniform  
11 Interstate Family Support Act.”  
12

13 2. (New section) Definitions.

14 As used in this act:

15 a. “Child” means an individual, whether over or under the age  
16 of majority, who is or is alleged to be owed a duty of support by the  
17 individual’s parent or who is or is alleged to be the beneficiary of a  
18 support order directed to the parent.

19 b. “Child support order” means a support order for a child,  
20 including a child who has attained the age of majority under the law  
21 of the issuing state or foreign country.

22 c. “Convention” means the Convention on the International  
23 Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family  
24 Maintenance, concluded at The Hague on November 23, 2007.

25 d. “Duty of support” means an obligation imposed or  
26 imposable by law to provide support for a child, spouse, or former  
27 spouse, including an unsatisfied obligation to provide support.

28 e. “Foreign country” means a country, including a political  
29 subdivision thereof, other than the United States, that authorizes the  
30 issuance of support orders and: (1) which has been declared under  
31 the law of the United States to be a foreign reciprocating country;  
32 (2) which has established a reciprocal arrangement for child support  
33 with this State as provided in section 24 of this act; (3) which has  
34 enacted a law or established procedures for the issuance and  
35 enforcement of support orders which are substantially similar to the  
36 procedures under this act; or (4) in which the Convention is in force  
37 with respect to the United States.

38 f. “Foreign support order” means a support order of a foreign  
39 tribunal.

40 g. “Foreign tribunal” means a court, administrative agency, or  
41 quasi-judicial entity of a foreign country which is authorized to  
42 establish, enforce, or modify support orders or to determine  
43 parentage of a child. The term includes a competent authority under  
44 the Convention.

45 h. “Home state” means the state or foreign country in which a  
46 child lived with a parent or a person acting as parent for at least six

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 consecutive months immediately preceding the time of filing of a  
2 complaint or comparable pleading for support and, if a child is less  
3 than six months old, the state or foreign country in which the child  
4 lived from birth with any of them. A period of temporary absence of  
5 any of them is counted as part of the six-month or other period.

6 i. "Income" includes earnings or other periodic entitlements to  
7 money from any source and any other property subject to  
8 withholding for support under the law of this State.

9 j. "Income-withholding order" means an order or other legal  
10 process directed to an obligor's employer, as defined by the "New  
11 Jersey Child Support Improvement Act," P.L.1998, c.1 (C.2A:17-  
12 56.7a et al.), to withhold support from the income of the obligor.

13 k. "Initiating tribunal" means the tribunal of a state or foreign  
14 country from which a petition or comparable pleading is forwarded  
15 or in which a petition or comparable pleading is filed for  
16 forwarding to another state or foreign country.

17 l. "Issuing foreign country" means the foreign country in  
18 which a tribunal issues a support order or a judgment determining  
19 parentage of a child.

20 m. "Issuing state" means the state in which a tribunal issues a  
21 support order or a judgment determining parentage of a child.

22 n. "Issuing tribunal" means the tribunal of a state or foreign  
23 country that issues a support order or a judgment determining  
24 parentage of a child.

25 o. "Law" includes decisional and statutory law and rules and  
26 regulations having the force of law.

27 p. "Obligee" means: (1) an individual to whom a duty of  
28 support is or is alleged to be owed or in whose favor a support order  
29 or a judgment determining parentage of a child has been issued; (2)  
30 a foreign country, state, or political subdivision of a state to which  
31 the rights under a duty of support or support order have been  
32 assigned or which has independent claims based on financial  
33 assistance provided to an individual obligee in place of child  
34 support; (3) an individual seeking a judgment determining  
35 parentage of the individual's child; or (4) a person that is a creditor  
36 under Article 7 of this act (the Convention).

37 q. "Obligor" means an individual, or the estate of a decedent  
38 that: (1) owes or is alleged to owe a duty of support; (2) is alleged  
39 but has not been adjudicated to be a parent of a child; (3) is liable  
40 under a support order; or (4) is a debtor in a proceeding under  
41 Article 7 of this act (the Convention).

42 r. "Outside this State" means a location in another state or a  
43 country other than the United States, whether or not the country is a  
44 foreign country.

45 s. "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust,  
46 estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association,  
47 joint venture, public corporation, government or governmental

1 subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other legal or  
2 commercial entity.

3 t. “Record” means information that is inscribed on a tangible  
4 medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is  
5 retrievable in perceivable form.

6 u. “Register” means to file in a tribunal of this State a support  
7 order or judgment determining parentage of a child issued in  
8 another state or a foreign country.

9 v. “Registering tribunal” means a tribunal in which a support  
10 order or judgment determining parentage of a child is registered.

11 w. “Responding state” means a state in which a petition or  
12 comparable pleading for support or to determine parentage of a  
13 child is filed or to which a petition or comparable pleading is  
14 forwarded for filing from another state or a foreign country.

15 x. “Responding tribunal” means the authorized tribunal in a  
16 responding state or foreign country.

17 y. “Spousal support order” means a support order for a spouse  
18 or former spouse of the obligor.

19 z. “State” means a state of the United States, the District of  
20 Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any  
21 territory or insular possession under the jurisdiction of the United  
22 States. The term includes an Indian nation or tribe.

23 aa. “Support enforcement agency” means a public official,  
24 governmental entity, or private agency authorized to: (1) seek  
25 enforcement of support orders or laws relating to the duty of  
26 support; (2) seek establishment or modification of child support; (3)  
27 request determination of parentage of a child; (4) attempt to locate  
28 obligors or their assets; or (5) request determination of the  
29 controlling child support order.

30 bb. “Support order” means a judgment, decree, order, decision,  
31 or directive, whether temporary, final, or subject to modification,  
32 issued in a state or foreign country for the benefit of a child, a  
33 spouse, or a former spouse, which provides for monetary support,  
34 health care, arrearages, retroactive support, or reimbursement for  
35 financial assistance provided to an individual obligee in place of  
36 child support. The term may include related costs and fees, interest,  
37 income withholding, automatic adjustment, reasonable attorney’s  
38 fees, and other relief.

39 cc. “Tribunal” means a court, administrative agency, or quasi-  
40 judicial entity authorized to establish, enforce, or modify support  
41 orders or to determine parentage of a child.

42

43 3. (New section) State tribunal and support enforcement  
44 agency.

45 a. The Superior Court, Chancery Division, Family Part is the  
46 tribunal of this State.

47 b. The Probation Division of the Superior Court is the support  
48 enforcement agencies of this State.

1 c. The Department of Human Services is the State IV-D  
2 Agency.

3

4 4. (New section) Remedies cumulative.

5 a. Remedies provided by this act are cumulative and do not  
6 affect the availability of remedies under other law or the recognition  
7 of a foreign support order on the basis of comity.

8 b. This act does not:

9 (1) provide the exclusive method of establishing or enforcing a  
10 support order under the law of this State; or

11 (2) grant a tribunal of this State jurisdiction to render judgment  
12 or issue an order relating to child custody or visitation in a  
13 proceeding under this act.

14

15 5. (New section) Application of act to resident of foreign  
16 country and foreign support proceeding.

17 a. A tribunal of this State shall apply Articles 1 through 6 of  
18 this act and, as applicable, Article 7 of this act, to a support  
19 proceeding involving:

20 (1) a foreign support order;

21 (2) a foreign tribunal; or

22 (3) an obligee, obligor, or child residing in a foreign country.

23 b. A tribunal of this State that is requested to recognize and  
24 enforce a support order on the basis of comity may apply the  
25 procedural and substantive provisions of Articles 1 through 6 of this  
26 act.

27 c. Article 7 applies only to a support proceeding under the  
28 Convention. In such a proceeding, if a provision of Article 7 of this  
29 act is inconsistent with Article 1 through 6 of this act, Article 7 of  
30 this act controls.

31

32 ARTICLE 2  
33 JURISDICTION  
34

35 6. (New section) Bases for jurisdiction over nonresident.

36 a. In a proceeding to establish or enforce a support order or to  
37 determine parentage of a child, a tribunal of this State may exercise  
38 personal jurisdiction over a nonresident individual or the  
39 individual's guardian or conservator if:

40 (1) the individual is personally served with a summons or notice  
41 within this State;

42 (2) the individual submits to the jurisdiction of this State by  
43 consent in a record, by entering a general appearance, or by filing a  
44 responsive document having the effect of waiving any contest to  
45 personal jurisdiction;

46 (3) the individual resided with the child in this State;

47 (4) the individual resided in this State and provided prenatal  
48 expenses or support for the child;

1 (5) the child resides in this State as a result of the acts or  
2 directives of the individual;

3 (6) the individual engaged in sexual intercourse in this State and  
4 the child may have been conceived by that act of intercourse;

5 (7) there is any other basis consistent with the constitutions of  
6 this State and the United States for the exercise of personal  
7 jurisdiction.

8 b. The bases of personal jurisdiction set forth in subsection a.  
9 or in any other law of this State may not be used to acquire personal  
10 jurisdiction for a tribunal of this State to modify a child support  
11 order of another state unless the requirements of section 55 are met,  
12 or, in the case of a foreign support order, unless the requirements of  
13 section 59 are met.

14

15 7. (New section) Duration of personal jurisdiction.

16 Personal jurisdiction acquired by a tribunal of this State in a  
17 proceeding under this act or other law of this State relating to a  
18 support order continues as long as a tribunal of this State has  
19 continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify its order or continuing  
20 jurisdiction to enforce its order as provided by sections 10, 11 and  
21 16 of this act.

22

23 8. (New section) Initiating and responding tribunal of state.

24 Under this act, a tribunal of this State may serve as an initiating  
25 tribunal to forward proceedings to a tribunal of another state, and as  
26 a responding tribunal for proceedings initiated in another state or a  
27 foreign country.

28

29 9. (New section) Simultaneous proceedings.

30 a. A tribunal of this State may exercise jurisdiction to establish  
31 a support order if the petition or comparable pleading is filed after a  
32 pleading is filed in another state or a foreign country only if:

33 (1) the petition or comparable pleading in this State is filed  
34 before the expiration of the time allowed in the other state or the  
35 foreign country for filing a responsive pleading challenging the  
36 exercise of jurisdiction by the other state or the foreign country;

37 (2) the contesting party timely challenges the exercise of  
38 jurisdiction in the other state or the foreign country; and

39 (3) if relevant, this State is the home state of the child.

40 b. A tribunal of this State may not exercise jurisdiction to  
41 establish a support order if the petition or comparable pleading is  
42 filed before a petition or comparable pleading is filed in another  
43 state or a foreign country if:

44 (1) the petition or comparable pleading in the other state or  
45 foreign country is filed before the expiration of the time allowed in  
46 this State for filing a responsive pleading challenging the exercise  
47 of jurisdiction by this State;

1 (2) the contesting party timely challenges the exercise of  
2 jurisdiction in this State; and

3 (3) if relevant, the other state or foreign country is the home  
4 state of the child.

5

6 10. (New section) Continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify  
7 child support order.

8 a. A tribunal of this State that has issued a child support order  
9 consistent with the law of this State has and shall exercise  
10 continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify its child support order  
11 if the order is the controlling order and:

12 (1) at the time of the filing of a request for modification this  
13 State is the residence of the obligor, the individual obligee, or the  
14 child for whose benefit the support order is issued; or

15 (2) even if this State is not the residence of the obligor, the  
16 individual obligee, or the child for whose benefit the support order  
17 is issued, the parties consent in a record or in open court that the  
18 tribunal of this State may continue to exercise jurisdiction to modify  
19 its order.

20 b. A tribunal of this State that has issued a child support order  
21 consistent with the law of this State may not exercise continuing,  
22 exclusive jurisdiction to modify the order if:

23 (1) all of the parties who are individuals file consent in a record  
24 with the tribunal of this State that a tribunal of another state that has  
25 jurisdiction over at least one of the parties who is an individual or  
26 that is located in the state of residence of the child may modify the  
27 order and assume continuing, exclusive jurisdiction; or

28 (2) its order is not the controlling order.

29 c. If a tribunal of another state has issued a child support order  
30 pursuant to the "Uniform Interstate Family Support Act,"  
31 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) or  
32 a law substantially similar to that act which modifies a child support  
33 order of a tribunal of this State, tribunals of this State shall  
34 recognize the continuing, exclusive jurisdiction of the tribunal of  
35 the other state.

36 d. A tribunal of this State that lacks continuing, exclusive  
37 jurisdiction to modify a child support order may serve as an  
38 initiating tribunal to request a tribunal of another state to modify a  
39 support order issued in that state.

40 e. A temporary support order issued ex parte or pending  
41 resolution of a jurisdictional conflict does not create continuing,  
42 exclusive jurisdiction in the issuing tribunal.

43

44 11. (New section) Continuing jurisdiction to enforce child  
45 support order.

46 a. A tribunal of this State that has issued a child support order  
47 consistent with the law of this State may serve as an initiating  
48 tribunal to request a tribunal of another state to enforce:

1 (1) the order if the order is the controlling order and has not  
2 been modified by a tribunal of another state that assumed  
3 jurisdiction pursuant to the “Uniform Interstate Family Support  
4 Act,” P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this  
5 bill); or

6 (2) a money judgment for arrears of support and interest on the  
7 order accrued before a determination that an order of a tribunal of  
8 another state is the controlling order.

9 b. A tribunal of this State having continuing jurisdiction over a  
10 support order may act as a responding tribunal to enforce the order.  
11

12 12. (New section) Determination of controlling child support  
13 order.

14 a. If a proceeding is brought under this act and only one  
15 tribunal has issued a child support order, the order of that tribunal  
16 controls and shall be recognized.

17 b. If a proceeding is brought under this act, and two or more  
18 child support orders have been issued by tribunals of this State,  
19 another state, or a foreign country with regard to the same obligor  
20 and same child, a tribunal of this State having personal jurisdiction  
21 over both the obligor and individual obligee shall apply the  
22 following rules and by order shall determine which order controls  
23 and shall be recognized:

24 (1) If only one of the tribunals would have continuing, exclusive  
25 jurisdiction under this act, the order of that tribunal controls.

26 (2) If more than one of the tribunals would have continuing,  
27 exclusive jurisdiction under this act:

28 (a) an order issued by a tribunal in the current home state of the  
29 child controls; or

30 (b) if an order has not been issued in the current home state of  
31 the child, the order most recently issued controls.

32 (3) If none of the tribunals would have continuing, exclusive  
33 jurisdiction under this act, the tribunal of this State shall issue a  
34 child support order, which controls.

35 c. If two or more child support orders have been issued for the  
36 same obligor and same child, upon request of a party who is an  
37 individual or that is a support enforcement agency, a tribunal of this  
38 State having personal jurisdiction over both the obligor and the  
39 obligee who is an individual shall determine which order controls  
40 under subsection b. The request may be filed with a registration for  
41 enforcement or registration for modification pursuant to Article 6 of  
42 this act, or may be filed as a separate proceeding.

43 d. A request to determine which is the controlling order shall  
44 be accompanied by a copy of every child support order in effect and  
45 the applicable record of payments. The requesting party shall give  
46 notice of the request to each party whose rights may be affected by  
47 the determination.



1 e. The tribunal that issued the controlling order under  
2 subsection a., b., or c. of this section has continuing jurisdiction to  
3 the extent provided in sections 10 or 11 of this act.

4 f. A tribunal of this State that determines by order which is the  
5 controlling order under paragraphs (1) or (2) of subsection b. or  
6 subsection c. of this section, or that issues a new controlling order  
7 under paragraph (3) of subsection b. of this section, shall state in  
8 that order:

9 (1) the basis upon which the tribunal made its determination;

10 (2) the amount of prospective support, if any; and

11 (3) the total amount of consolidated arrears and accrued interest,  
12 if any, under all of the orders after all payments made are credited  
13 as provided by section 14 of this act .

14 g. Within 30 days after issuance of an order determining which  
15 is the controlling order, the party obtaining the order shall file a  
16 certified copy of it in each tribunal that issued or registered an  
17 earlier order of child support. A party or support enforcement  
18 agency obtaining the order that fails to file a certified copy is  
19 subject to appropriate sanctions by a tribunal in which the issue of  
20 failure to file arises. The failure to file does not affect the validity  
21 or enforceability of the controlling order.

22 h. An order that has been determined to be the controlling  
23 order, or a judgment for consolidated arrears of support and interest,  
24 if any, made pursuant to this section shall be recognized in  
25 proceedings under this act.

26

27 13. (New section) Child support orders for two or more  
28 obligees.

29 In responding to registrations or petitions for enforcement of two  
30 or more child support orders in effect at the same time with regard  
31 to the same obligor and different individual obligees, at least one of  
32 which was issued by a tribunal of another state or a foreign country,  
33 a tribunal of this State shall enforce those orders in the same  
34 manner as if the orders had been issued by a tribunal of this State.

35

36 14. (New section) Credit for payments.

37 A tribunal of this State shall credit amounts collected for a  
38 particular period pursuant to any child support order against the  
39 amounts owed for the same period under any other child support  
40 order for support of the same child issued by a tribunal of this State,  
41 another state, or a foreign country.

42

43 15. (New section) Application of act to nonresident subject to  
44 personal jurisdiction.

45 A tribunal of this State exercising personal jurisdiction over a  
46 nonresident in a proceeding under this act, under other law of this  
47 State relating to a support order, or recognizing a foreign support  
48 order may receive evidence from outside this State pursuant to

1 section 32 of this act, communicate with a tribunal outside this State  
2 pursuant to section 33 of this act, and obtain discovery through a  
3 tribunal outside this State pursuant to section 34 of this act. In all  
4 other respects, Articles 3 through 6 do not apply, and the tribunal  
5 shall apply the procedural and substantive law of this State.

6  
7 16. (New section) Continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify  
8 spousal support order.

9 a. A tribunal of this State issuing a spousal support order  
10 consistent with the law of this State has continuing, exclusive  
11 jurisdiction to modify the spousal support order throughout the  
12 existence of the support obligation.

13 b. A tribunal of this State may not modify a spousal support  
14 order issued by a tribunal of another state or a foreign country  
15 having continuing, exclusive jurisdiction over that order under the  
16 law of that state or foreign country.

17 c. A tribunal of this State that has continuing, exclusive  
18 jurisdiction over a spousal support order may serve as:

19 (1) an initiating tribunal to request a tribunal of another state to  
20 enforce the spousal support order issued in this State; or

21 (2) a responding tribunal to enforce or modify its own spousal  
22 support order.

23  
24 ARTICLE 3

25 CIVIL PROVISIONS OF GENERAL APPLICATION

26  
27 17. (New section) Proceedings under act.

28 a. Except as otherwise provided in this act, this article applies  
29 to all proceedings under this act.

30 b. An individual petitioner or a support enforcement agency  
31 may initiate a proceeding authorized under this act by filing a  
32 petition in an initiating tribunal for forwarding to a responding  
33 tribunal or by filing a petition or a comparable pleading directly in a  
34 tribunal of another state or a foreign country which has or can  
35 obtain personal jurisdiction over the respondent.

36  
37 18. (New section) Proceeding by minor parent.

38 A minor parent, or a guardian or other legal representative of a  
39 minor parent, may maintain a proceeding on behalf of or for the  
40 benefit of the minor's child.

41  
42 19. (New section) Application of law of State.

43 Except as otherwise provided in this act, a responding tribunal of  
44 this State shall:

45 a. apply the procedural and substantive law generally  
46 applicable to similar proceedings originating in this State and may  
47 exercise all powers and provide all remedies available in those  
48 proceedings; and

1       b. determine the duty of support and the amount payable in  
2 accordance with the law and support guidelines of this State.

3

4       20. (New section) Duties of initiating tribunal.

5       a. Upon the filing of a petition authorized by this act, an  
6 initiating tribunal of this State shall forward the petition and its  
7 accompanying documents:

8       (1) to the responding tribunal or appropriate support  
9 enforcement agency in the responding state; or

10       (2) if the identity of the responding tribunal is unknown, to the  
11 state information agency of the responding state with a request that  
12 they be forwarded to the appropriate tribunal and that receipt be  
13 acknowledged.

14       b. If requested by the responding tribunal, a tribunal of this  
15 State shall issue a certificate or other document and make findings  
16 required by the law of the responding state. If the responding  
17 tribunal is in a foreign country, upon request the tribunal of this  
18 State shall specify the amount of support sought, convert that  
19 amount into the equivalent amount in the foreign currency under  
20 applicable official or market exchange rate as publicly reported, and  
21 provide any other documents necessary to satisfy the requirements  
22 of the responding foreign tribunal.

23

24       21. (New section) Duties and powers of responding tribunal.

25       a. When a responding tribunal of this State receives a petition  
26 or comparable pleading from an initiating tribunal or directly  
27 pursuant to subsection b. of section 17 of this act, it shall cause the  
28 petition or pleading to be filed and notify the petitioner where and  
29 when it was filed.

30       b. A responding tribunal of this State, to the extent not  
31 prohibited by other law, may do one or more of the following:

32       (1) establish or enforce a support order, modify a child support  
33 order, determine the controlling child support order, or determine  
34 parentage of a child;

35       (2) order an obligor to comply with a support order, specifying  
36 the amount and the manner of compliance;

37       (3) order income withholding;

38       (4) determine the amount of any arrearages, and specify a  
39 method of payment;

40       (5) enforce orders by civil or criminal contempt, or both;

41       (6) set aside property for satisfaction of the support order;

42       (7) place liens and order execution on the obligor's property;

43       (8) order an obligor to keep the tribunal informed of the  
44 obligor's current residential address, electronic-mail address,  
45 telephone number, employer, address of employment, and telephone  
46 number at the place of employment;

47       (9) issue a bench warrant for an obligor who has failed after  
48 proper notice to appear at a hearing ordered by the tribunal and

1 enter the bench warrant in any local and state computer systems for  
2 criminal warrants;

3 (10) order the obligor to seek appropriate employment by  
4 specified methods;

5 (11) award reasonable attorney's fees and other fees and costs;  
6 and

7 (12) grant any other available remedy.

8 c. A responding tribunal of this State shall include in a support  
9 order issued under this act, or in the documents accompanying the  
10 order, the calculations on which the support order is based.

11 d. A responding tribunal of this State may not condition the  
12 payment of a support order issued under this act upon compliance  
13 by a party with provisions for visitation.

14 e. If a responding tribunal of this State issues an order under  
15 this act, the tribunal shall send a copy of the order to the petitioner  
16 and the respondent and to the initiating tribunal, if any.

17 f. If requested to enforce a support order, arrears, or judgment  
18 or modify a support order stated in a foreign currency, a responding  
19 tribunal of this State shall convert the amount stated in the foreign  
20 currency to the equivalent amount in dollars under the applicable  
21 official or market exchange rate as publicly reported.

22

23 22. (New section) Inappropriate tribunal.

24 If a petition or comparable pleading is received by an  
25 inappropriate tribunal of this State, the tribunal shall forward the  
26 pleading and accompanying documents to an appropriate tribunal of  
27 this State or another state and notify the petitioner where and when  
28 the pleading was sent.

29

30 23. (New section) Duties of support enforcement agency.

31 a. In a proceeding under this act, a support enforcement agency  
32 of this State, upon request:

33 (1) shall provide services to a petitioner residing in a state;

34 (2) shall provide services to a petitioner requesting services  
35 through a central authority of a foreign country as described in  
36 paragraph (1) or (4) of subsection e. of section 2 of this act; and

37 (3) may provide services to a petitioner who is an individual not  
38 residing in a state.

39 b. A support enforcement agency of this State that is providing  
40 services to the petitioner shall:

41 (1) take all steps necessary to enable an appropriate tribunal of  
42 this State, another state, or a foreign country to obtain jurisdiction  
43 over the respondent;

44 (2) request an appropriate tribunal to set a date, time, and place  
45 for a hearing;

46 (3) make a reasonable effort to obtain all relevant information,  
47 including information as to income and property of the parties;

1 (4) within two days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal  
2 holidays, after receipt of notice in a record from an initiating,  
3 responding, or registering tribunal, send a copy of the notice to the  
4 petitioner;

5 (5) within two days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal  
6 holidays, after receipt of communication in a record from the  
7 respondent or the respondent's attorney, send a copy of the  
8 communication to the petitioner; and

9 (6) notify the petitioner if jurisdiction over the respondent  
10 cannot be obtained.

11 c. A support enforcement agency of this State that requests  
12 registration of a child support order in this State for enforcement or  
13 for modification shall make reasonable efforts:

14 (1) to ensure that the order to be registered is the controlling  
15 order; or

16 (2) if two or more child support orders exist and the identity of  
17 the controlling order has not been determined, to ensure that a  
18 request for such a determination is made in a tribunal having  
19 jurisdiction to do so.

20 d. A support enforcement agency of this State that requests  
21 registration and enforcement of a support order, arrears, or  
22 judgment stated in a foreign currency shall convert the amounts  
23 stated in the foreign currency into the equivalent amounts in dollars  
24 under the applicable official or market exchange rate as publicly  
25 reported.

26 e. A support enforcement agency of this State shall request a  
27 tribunal of this State to issue a child support order and an income-  
28 withholding order that redirect payment of current support, arrears,  
29 and interest if requested to do so by a support enforcement agency  
30 of another state pursuant to section 35 of this act.

31 f. This act does not create or negate a relationship of attorney  
32 and client or other fiduciary relationship between a support  
33 enforcement agency or the attorney for the agency and the  
34 individual being assisted by the agency.

35

36 24. (New section) Duty of the Attorney General.

37 a. If the Attorney General determines that the support  
38 enforcement agency is neglecting or refusing to provide services to  
39 an individual, the Attorney General may apply to the Superior Court  
40 for an order directing the Probation Division to perform its duties  
41 under this act or may provide those services directly to the  
42 individual.

43 b. The Attorney General may determine that a foreign country  
44 has established a reciprocal arrangement for child support with this  
45 State and take appropriate action for notification of the  
46 determination.

47

48 25. (New section) Private Counsel.

1       An individual may employ private counsel to represent the  
2 individual in proceedings authorized by this act.

3  
4       26. (New section) Duties of State Information Agency.

5       a. The Administrative Office of the Courts is the State  
6 information agency under this act.

7       b. The State information agency shall:

8       (1) compile and maintain a current list, including addresses, of  
9 the tribunals in this State which have jurisdiction under this act and  
10 any support enforcement agencies in this State and transmit a copy  
11 to the state information agency of every other state;

12       (2) maintain a register of names and addresses of tribunals and  
13 support enforcement agencies received from other states;

14       (3) forward to the appropriate tribunal in the county in this State  
15 in which the obligee who is an individual or the obligor resides, or  
16 in which the obligor's property is believed to be located, all  
17 documents concerning a proceeding under this act received from  
18 another state or a foreign country; and

19       (4) obtain information concerning the location of the obligor  
20 and the obligor's property within this State not exempt from  
21 execution, by such means as postal verification and federal or state  
22 locator services, examination of telephone directories, requests for  
23 the obligor's address from employers, and examination of  
24 governmental records, including, to the extent not prohibited by  
25 other law, those relating to real property, vital statistics, law  
26 enforcement, taxation, motor vehicles, driver's licenses, and social  
27 security.

28  
29       27. (New section) Pleadings and accompanying documents.

30       a. In a proceeding under this act, a petitioner seeking to  
31 establish a support order, to determine parentage of a child, or to  
32 register and modify a support order of a tribunal of another state or  
33 a foreign country shall file a petition. Unless otherwise ordered  
34 under section 28 of this act, the petition or accompanying  
35 documents shall provide, so far as known, the name, residential  
36 address, and social security numbers of the obligor and the obligee  
37 or the parent and alleged parent, and the name, sex, residential  
38 address, social security number, and date of birth of each child for  
39 whose benefit support is sought or whose parentage is to be  
40 determined. Unless filed at the time of registration, the petition  
41 shall be accompanied by a copy of any support order known to have  
42 been issued by another tribunal. The petition may include any other  
43 information that may assist in locating or identifying the  
44 respondent.

45       b. The petition shall specify the relief sought. The petition and  
46 accompanying documents shall conform substantially with the  
47 requirements imposed by the forms mandated by federal law for use  
48 in cases filed by a support enforcement agency.

1       28. (New section) Nondisclosure of information in exceptional  
2 circumstances.

3       If a party alleges in an affidavit or a pleading under oath that the  
4 health, safety, or liberty of a party or child would be jeopardized by  
5 disclosure of specific identifying information, that information shall  
6 be sealed and may not be disclosed to the other party or the public.  
7 After a hearing in which a tribunal takes into consideration the  
8 health, safety, or liberty of the party or child, the tribunal may order  
9 disclosure of information that the tribunal determines to be in the  
10 interest of justice.

11

12       29. (New section) Costs and fees.

13       a. The petitioner shall not be required to pay a filing fee or  
14 other costs.

15       b. If an obligee prevails, a responding tribunal of this State  
16 may assess against an obligor filing fees, reasonable attorney's fees,  
17 other costs, and necessary travel and other reasonable expenses  
18 incurred by the obligee and the obligee's witnesses. The tribunal  
19 may not assess fees, costs, or expenses against the obligee or the  
20 support enforcement agency of either the initiating or responding  
21 state or foreign country, except as provided by other law.  
22 Attorney's fees may be taxed as costs, and may be ordered paid  
23 directly to the attorney, who may enforce the order in the attorney's  
24 own name. Payment of support owed to the obligee has priority  
25 over fees, costs, and expenses.

26       c. The tribunal shall order the payment of costs and reasonable  
27 attorney's fees if it determines that a hearing was requested  
28 primarily for delay. In a proceeding under Article 6, a hearing is  
29 presumed to have been requested primarily for delay if a registered  
30 support order is confirmed or enforced without change.

31

32       30. (New section) Limited immunity of petitioner.

33       a. Participation by a petitioner in a proceeding under this act  
34 before a responding tribunal, whether in person, by private attorney,  
35 or through services provided by the support enforcement agency,  
36 does not confer personal jurisdiction over the petitioner in another  
37 proceeding.

38       b. A petitioner is not amenable to service of civil process while  
39 physically present in this State to participate in a proceeding under  
40 this act.

41       c. The immunity granted by this section does not extend to  
42 civil litigation based on acts unrelated to a proceeding under this act  
43 committed by a party while physically present in this State to  
44 participate in the proceeding.

45

46       31. (New section) Nonparentage as defense.

1 A party whose parentage of a child has been previously  
2 determined by or pursuant to law may not plead nonparentage as a  
3 defense to a proceeding under this act.

4  
5 32. (New section) Special rules of evidence and procedure.

6 a. The physical presence of a nonresident party who is an  
7 individual in a tribunal of this State is not required for the  
8 establishment, enforcement, or modification of a support order or  
9 the rendition of a judgment determining parentage of a child.

10 b. An affidavit, a document substantially complying with  
11 federally mandated forms, or a document incorporated by reference  
12 in any of them, which would not be excluded under the hearsay rule  
13 if given in person, is admissible in evidence if given under penalty  
14 of perjury by a party or witness residing outside this State.

15 c. A copy of the record of child support payments certified as a  
16 true copy of the original by the custodian of the record may be  
17 forwarded to a responding tribunal. The copy is evidence of facts  
18 asserted in it, and is admissible to show whether payments were  
19 made.

20 d. Copies of bills for testing for parentage of a child, and for  
21 prenatal and postnatal health care of the mother and child, furnished  
22 to the adverse party at least 10 days before trial, are admissible in  
23 evidence to prove the amount of the charges billed and that the  
24 charges were reasonable, necessary, and customary.

25 e. Documentary evidence transmitted from outside this State to  
26 a tribunal of this State by telephone, telecopier, or other electronic  
27 means that do not provide an original record may not be excluded  
28 from evidence on an objection based on the means of transmission.

29 f. In a proceeding under this act, a tribunal of this State shall  
30 permit a party or witness residing outside this State to be deposed or  
31 to testify under penalty of perjury by telephone, audiovisual means,  
32 or other electronic means at a designated tribunal or other location.  
33 A tribunal of this State shall cooperate with other tribunals in  
34 designating an appropriate location for the deposition or testimony.

35 g. If a party called to testify at a civil hearing refuses to answer  
36 on the ground that the testimony may be self-incriminating, the trier  
37 of fact may draw an adverse inference from the refusal.

38 h. A privilege against disclosure of communications between  
39 spouses does not apply in a proceeding under this act.

40 i. The defense of immunity based on the relationship of  
41 husband and wife or parent and child does not apply in a proceeding  
42 under this act.

43 j. A voluntary acknowledgment of paternity, certified as a true  
44 copy, is admissible to establish parentage of the child.

45  
46 33. (New section) Communications between tribunals

47 A tribunal of this State may communicate with a tribunal outside  
48 this State in a record or by telephone, electronic mail, or other



1 means, to obtain information concerning the laws, the legal effect of  
2 a judgment, decree, or order of that tribunal, and the status of a  
3 proceeding. A tribunal of this State may furnish similar information  
4 by similar means to a tribunal outside this State.

5  
6 34. (New section) Assistance with discovery.

7 A tribunal of this State may:

8 a. request a tribunal outside this State to assist in obtaining  
9 discovery; and

10 b. upon request, compel a person over which it has jurisdiction  
11 to respond to a discovery order issued by a tribunal outside this  
12 State.

13  
14 35. (New section) Receipt and disbursement of payments.

15 a. A support enforcement agency or tribunal of this State shall  
16 disburse promptly any amounts received pursuant to a support  
17 order, as directed by the order. The agency or tribunal shall furnish  
18 to a requesting party or tribunal of another state or a foreign country  
19 a certified statement by the custodian of the record of the amounts  
20 and dates of all payments received.

21 b. If neither the obligor, nor the obligee who is an individual, nor  
22 the child resides in this State, upon request from the support  
23 enforcement agency of this State or another state or a tribunal of  
24 this State shall:

25 (1) direct that the support payment be made to the support  
26 enforcement agency in the State in which the obligee is receiving  
27 services; and

28 (2) issue and send to the obligor's employer a conforming  
29 income-withholding order or an administrative notice of change of  
30 payee, reflecting the redirected payments.

31 c. The support enforcement agency of this State receiving  
32 redirected payments from another state pursuant to a law similar to  
33 subsection b. of this section shall furnish to a requesting party or  
34 tribunal of the other state a certified statement by the custodian of  
35 the record of the amount and dates of all payments received.

36  
37 ARTICLE 4

38 ESTABLISHMENT OF SUPPORT ORDER OR  
39 DETERMINATION OF PARENTAGE  
40

41 36. (New section) Establishment of support order.

42 a. If a support order entitled to recognition under this act has  
43 not been issued, a responding tribunal of this State with personal  
44 jurisdiction over the parties may issue a support order if:

45 (1) the individual seeking the order resides outside this State; or

46 (2) the support enforcement agency seeking the order is located  
47 outside this State.

1       b. The tribunal may issue a temporary child support order if the  
2 tribunal determines that such an order is appropriate and the  
3 individual ordered to pay is:

- 4       (1) a presumed father of the child;  
5       (2) petitioning to have his paternity adjudicated;  
6       (3) identified as the father of the child through genetic testing;  
7       (4) an alleged father who has declined to submit to genetic  
8 testing;  
9       (5) shown by clear and convincing evidence to be the father of  
10 the child;  
11       (6) an acknowledged father as provided by law;  
12       (7) the mother of the child; or  
13       (8) an individual who has been ordered to pay child support in a  
14 previous proceeding and the order has not been reversed or vacated.

15       c. Upon finding, after notice and opportunity to be heard, that  
16 an obligor owes a duty of support, the tribunal shall issue a support  
17 order directed to the obligor and may issue other orders pursuant to  
18 section 21 of this act.

19  
20       37. (New section) Proceeding to determine parentage.

21       A tribunal of this State authorized to determine parentage of a  
22 child may serve as a responding tribunal in a proceeding to  
23 determine parentage of a child brought under this act or a law or  
24 procedure substantially similar to this act.

25  
26                                   ARTICLE 5  
27                   ENFORCEMENT OF SUPPORT ORDER WITHOUT  
28                                   REGISTRATION  
29

30       38. (New section) Employer's receipt of income withholding  
31 order of another state.

32       An income-withholding order issued in another state may be sent  
33 by or on behalf of the obligee, or by the support enforcement  
34 agency, to the person defined as the obligor's employer under  
35 P.L.1998, c.1 (C.2A:17-56.7a et al.) without first filing a petition or  
36 comparable pleading or registering the order with a tribunal of this  
37 State.

38  
39       39. (New section) Employer's compliance with income  
40 withholding order of another state.

41       a. Upon receipt of an income-withholding order, the obligor's  
42 employer shall immediately provide a copy of the order to the  
43 obligor.

44       b. The employer shall treat an income-withholding order issued  
45 in another state which appears regular on its face as if it had been  
46 issued by a tribunal of this State.

47       c. Except as otherwise provided in subsection d. of this section  
48 and section 40 of this act, the employer shall withhold and

1 distribute the funds as directed in the withholding order by  
2 complying with terms of the order which specify:

3 (1) the duration and amount of periodic payments of current  
4 child support, stated as a sum certain;

5 (2) the person designated to receive payments and the address to  
6 which the payments are to be forwarded;

7 (3) medical support, whether in the form of periodic cash  
8 payment, stated as a sum certain, or ordering the obligor to provide  
9 health insurance coverage for the child under a policy available  
10 through the obligor's employment;

11 (4) the amount of periodic payments of fees and costs for a  
12 support enforcement agency, the issuing tribunal, and the obligee's  
13 attorney, stated as sums certain; and

14 (5) the amount of periodic payments of arrearages and interest  
15 on arrearages, stated as sums certain.

16 d. An employer shall comply with the law of the state of the  
17 obligor's principal place of employment for withholding from  
18 income with respect to:

19 (1) the employer's fee for processing an income-withholding  
20 order;

21 (2) the maximum amount permitted to be withheld from the  
22 obligor's income; and

23 (3) the times within which the employer shall implement the  
24 withholding order and forward the child support payment.

25

26 40. (New section) Employers compliance with two or more  
27 income withholding orders.

28 If an obligor's employer receives two or more income-  
29 withholding orders with respect to the earnings of the same obligor,  
30 the employer satisfies the terms of the orders if the employer  
31 complies with the law of the state of the obligor's principal place of  
32 employment to establish the priorities for withholding and  
33 allocating income withheld for two or more child support obligees.

34

35 41. (New section) Immunity from civil liability.

36 An employer that complies with an income-withholding order  
37 issued in another state in accordance with this article is not subject  
38 to civil liability to an individual or agency with regard to the  
39 employer's withholding of child support from the obligor's income.

40

41 42. (New section) Penalties for noncompliance.

42 An employer who willfully fails to comply with an income-  
43 withholding order issued in another state and received for  
44 enforcement is subject to the same penalties that may be imposed  
45 for noncompliance with an order issued by a tribunal of this State.

46

47 43. (New section) Contest by obligor.

1       a. An obligor may contest the validity or enforcement of an  
2 income-withholding order issued in another state and received  
3 directly by an employer in this State by registering the order in a  
4 tribunal of this State and filing a contest to that order as provided in  
5 Article 6 of this act, or otherwise contesting the order in the same  
6 manner as if the order had been issued by a tribunal of this State.

7       b. The obligor shall give notice of the contest to:

8       (1) a support enforcement agency providing services to the  
9 obligee;

10       (2) each employer that has directly received an income-  
11 withholding order relating to the obligor; and

12       (3) the person designated to receive payments in the income-  
13 withholding order or, if no person is designated, to the obligee.

14  
15       44. (New section) Administrative enforcement of orders.

16       a. A party or support enforcement agency seeking to enforce a  
17 support order or an income-withholding order, or both, issued in  
18 another state or a foreign support order may send the documents  
19 required for registering the order to a support enforcement agency  
20 of this State.

21       b. Upon receipt of the documents, the support enforcement  
22 agency, without initially seeking to register the order, shall consider  
23 and, if appropriate, use any administrative procedure authorized by  
24 the law of this State to enforce a support order or an income-  
25 withholding order, or both. If the obligor does not contest  
26 administrative enforcement, the order need not be registered. If the  
27 obligor contests the validity or administrative enforcement of the  
28 order, the support enforcement agency shall register the order  
29 pursuant to this act.

30  
31                                   ARTICLE 6

32       REGISTRATION, ENFORCEMENT, AND MODIFICATION OF  
33                                   SUPPORT ORDER

34               PART 1 -- REGISTRATION FOR ENFORCEMENT OF  
35                                   SUPPORT ORDER

36  
37       45. (New section) Registration of order for enforcement.

38       A support order or income-withholding order issued in another  
39 state or a foreign support order may be registered in this State for  
40 enforcement.

41  
42       46. (New section) Procedure to register order for enforcement.

43       a. Except as otherwise provided in section 66 of this act, a  
44 support order or income-withholding order of another state or a  
45 foreign support order may be registered in this State by sending the  
46 following records to the appropriate tribunal in this State:

47       (1) a letter of transmittal to the tribunal requesting registration  
48 and enforcement;

- 1       (2) two copies, including one certified copy, of the order to be  
2 registered, including any modification of the order;
- 3       (3) a sworn statement by the person requesting registration or a  
4 certified statement by the custodian of the records showing the  
5 amount of any arrearage;
- 6       (4) the name of the obligor and, if known:  
7           (a) the obligor's address and social security number;  
8           (b) the name and address of the obligor's employer and any  
9 other source of income of the obligor; and  
10          (c) a description and the location of property of the obligor  
11 in this State not exempt from execution; and
- 12       (5) except as otherwise provided in section 28 of this act, the  
13 name and address of the obligee and, if applicable, the person to  
14 whom support payments are to be remitted.
- 15       b. On receipt of a request for registration, the registering  
16 tribunal shall cause the order to be filed as an order of a tribunal of  
17 another state or a foreign support order, together with one copy of  
18 the documents and information, regardless of their form.
- 19       c. A petition or comparable pleading seeking a remedy that  
20 shall be affirmatively sought under other law of this State may be  
21 filed at the same time as the request for registration or later. The  
22 pleading shall specify the grounds for the remedy sought.
- 23       d. If two or more orders are in effect, the person requesting  
24 registration shall:  
25          (1) furnish to the tribunal a copy of every support order asserted  
26 to be in effect in addition to the documents specified in this section;  
27          (2) specify the order alleged to be the controlling order, if any;  
28 and  
29          (3) specify the amount of consolidated arrears, if any.
- 30       e. A request for a determination of which is the controlling  
31 order may be filed separately or with a request for registration and  
32 enforcement or for registration and modification. The person  
33 requesting registration shall give notice of the request to each party  
34 whose rights may be affected by the determination.
- 35
- 36       47. (New section) Effect of registration for enforcement.
- 37       a. A support order or income-withholding order issued in  
38 another state or a foreign support order is registered when the order  
39 is filed in the registering tribunal of this State.
- 40       b. A registered support order issued in another state or a  
41 foreign country is enforceable in the same manner and is subject to  
42 the same procedures as an order issued by a tribunal of this State.
- 43       c. Except as otherwise provided in this act, a tribunal of this  
44 State shall recognize and enforce, but may not modify, a registered  
45 support order if the issuing tribunal had jurisdiction.
- 46
- 47       48. (New section) Choice of law.

- 1       a. Except as otherwise provided in subsection d. of this section,  
2 the law of the issuing state or foreign country governs:  
3       (1) the nature, extent, amount, and duration of current payments  
4 under a registered support order;  
5       (2) the computation and payment of arrearages and accrual of  
6 interest on the arrearages under the support order; and  
7       (3) the existence and satisfaction of other obligations under the  
8 support order.
- 9       b. In a proceeding for arrears under a registered support order,  
10 the statute of limitations of this State, or of the issuing state or  
11 foreign country, whichever is longer, applies.
- 12       c. A responding tribunal of this State shall apply the  
13 procedures and remedies of this State to enforce current support and  
14 collect arrears and interest due on a support order of another state or  
15 a foreign country registered in this State.
- 16       d. After a tribunal of this State or another state determines  
17 which is the controlling order and issues an order consolidating  
18 arrears, if any, a tribunal of this State shall prospectively apply the  
19 law of the state or foreign country issuing the controlling order,  
20 including its law on interest on arrears, on current and future  
21 support, and on consolidated arrears.

22

## 23           Part 2 -- CONTEST OF VALIDITY OR ENFORCEMENT

24

25       49. (New section) Notice of registration of order.

26       a. When a support order or income-withholding order issued in  
27 another state or a foreign support order is registered, the registering  
28 tribunal of this State shall notify the nonregistering party. The  
29 notice shall be accompanied by a copy of the registered order and  
30 the documents and relevant information accompanying the order.

31       b. A notice shall inform the nonregistering party:

32       (1) that a registered support order is enforceable as of the date  
33 of registration in the same manner as an order issued by a tribunal  
34 of this State;

35       (2) that a hearing to contest the validity or enforcement of the  
36 registered order shall be requested within 20 days after notice  
37 unless the registered order is under section 67 of this act;

38       (3) that failure to contest the validity or enforcement of the  
39 registered order in a timely manner will result in confirmation of  
40 the order and enforcement of the order and the alleged arrearages;  
41 and

42       (4) of the amount of any alleged arrearages.

43       c. If the registering party asserts that two or more orders are in  
44 effect, a notice shall also:

45       (1) identify the two or more orders and the order alleged by the  
46 registering party to be the controlling order and the consolidated  
47 arrears, if any;

1 (2) notify the nonregistering party of the right to a determination  
2 of which is the controlling order;

3 (3) state that the procedures provided in subsection b. apply to  
4 the determination of which is the controlling order; and

5 (4) state that failure to contest the validity or enforcement of the  
6 order alleged to be the controlling order in a timely manner may  
7 result in confirmation that the order is the controlling order.

8 d. Upon registration of an income-withholding order for  
9 enforcement, the support enforcement agency or the registering  
10 tribunal shall notify the obligor's employer pursuant to the "New  
11 Jersey Child Support Program Improvement Act,"  
12 P.L.1998, c.1 (C.2A:17-56.7a et al.).

13

14 50. (New section) Procedure to contest validity or enforcement  
15 of registered support order.

16 a. A nonregistering party seeking to contest the validity or  
17 enforcement of a registered support order in this State shall request  
18 a hearing within the time required by section 49 of this act. The  
19 nonregistering party may seek to vacate the registration, to assert  
20 any defense to an allegation of noncompliance with the registered  
21 order, or to contest the remedies being sought or the amount of any  
22 alleged arrearages pursuant to section 51 of this act.

23 b. If the nonregistering party fails to contest the validity or  
24 enforcement of the registered support order in a timely manner, the  
25 order is confirmed by operation of law.

26 c. If a nonregistering party requests a hearing to contest the  
27 validity or enforcement of the registered support order, the  
28 registering tribunal shall schedule the matter for hearing and give  
29 notice to the parties of the date, time, and place of the hearing.

30

31 51. (New section) Contest of registration or enforcement.

32 a. A party contesting the validity or enforcement of a registered  
33 support order or seeking to vacate the registration has the burden of  
34 proving one or more of the following defenses:

35 (1) the issuing tribunal lacked personal jurisdiction over the  
36 contesting party;

37 (2) the order was obtained by fraud;

38 (3) the order has been vacated, suspended, or modified by a later  
39 order;

40 (4) the issuing tribunal has stayed the order pending appeal;

41 (5) there is a defense under the law of this State to the remedy  
42 sought;

43 (6) full or partial payment has been made;

44 (7) the statute of limitation under section 48 of this act  
45 precludes enforcement of some or all of the alleged arrearages; or

46 (8) the alleged controlling order is not the controlling order.

47 b. If a party presents evidence establishing a full or partial  
48 defense under subsection a., a tribunal may stay enforcement of a

1 registered support order, continue the proceeding to permit  
2 production of additional relevant evidence, and issue other  
3 appropriate orders. An uncontested portion of the registered support  
4 order may be enforced by all remedies available under the law of  
5 this State.

6 c. If the contesting party does not establish a defense under  
7 subsection a. to the validity or enforcement of a registered support  
8 order, the registering tribunal shall issue an order confirming the  
9 order.

10  
11 52. (New section) Confirmed order.

12 Confirmation of a registered support order, whether by operation  
13 of law or after notice and hearing, precludes further contest of the  
14 order with respect to any matter that could have been asserted at the  
15 time of registration.

16  
17 PART 3 -- REGISTRATION AND MODIFICATION OF  
18 CHILD SUPPORT ORDER OF ANOTHER STATE  
19

20 53. (New section) Procedure to register child support order of  
21 another state for modification.

22 A party or support enforcement agency seeking to modify, or to  
23 modify and enforce, a child support order issued in another state  
24 shall register that order in this State in the same manner provided in  
25 sections 45 through 52 of this act if the order has not been  
26 registered. A petition for modification may be filed at the same time  
27 as a request for registration, or later. The pleading shall specify the  
28 grounds for modification.

29  
30 54. (New section) Effect of registration for modification.

31 A tribunal of this State may enforce a child support order of  
32 another state registered for purposes of modification, in the same  
33 manner as if the order had been issued by a tribunal of this State,  
34 but the registered support order may be modified only if the  
35 requirements of section 55 or 57 of this act have been met.

36  
37 55. (New section) Modification of child support order of  
38 another state.

39 a. If section 57 of this act does not apply, upon petition a  
40 tribunal of this State may modify a child support order issued in  
41 another state which is registered in this State if, after notice and  
42 hearing, the tribunal finds that:

43 (1) the following requirements are met:

44 (a) neither the child, nor the obligee who is an individual, nor  
45 the obligor resides in the issuing state;

46 (b) a petitioner who is a nonresident of this State seeks  
47 modification; and



1 (c) the respondent is subject to the personal jurisdiction of the  
2 tribunal of this State; or

3 (2) this State is the residence of the child, or a party who is an  
4 individual is subject to the personal jurisdiction of the tribunal of  
5 this State, and all of the parties who are individuals have filed  
6 consents in a record in the issuing tribunal for a tribunal of this  
7 State to modify the support order and assume continuing, exclusive  
8 jurisdiction.

9 b. Modification of a registered child support order is subject to  
10 the same requirements, procedures, and defenses that apply to the  
11 modification of an order issued by a tribunal of this State and the  
12 order may be enforced and satisfied in the same manner.

13 c. A tribunal of this State may not modify any aspect of a child  
14 support order that may not be modified under the law of the issuing  
15 state, including the duration of the obligation of support. If two or  
16 more tribunals have issued child support orders for the same obligor  
17 and same child, the order that controls and shall be so recognized  
18 under section 12 of this act establishes the aspects of the support  
19 order which are nonmodifiable.

20 d. In a proceeding to modify a child support order, the law of  
21 the state that is determined to have issued the initial controlling  
22 order governs the duration of the obligation of support. The  
23 obligor's fulfillment of the duty of support established by that order  
24 precludes imposition of a further obligation of support by a tribunal  
25 of this State.

26 e. On the issuance of an order by a tribunal of this State  
27 modifying a child support order issued in another state, the tribunal  
28 of this State becomes the tribunal having continuing, exclusive  
29 jurisdiction.

30 f. Notwithstanding subsections a. through e. of this section and  
31 subsection b. of section 6 of this act, a tribunal of this State retains  
32 jurisdiction to modify an order issued by a tribunal of this State if:

33 (1) one party resides in another state; and

34 (2) the other party resides outside the United States.

35  
36 56. (New section) Recognition of order modified in another  
37 state.

38 If a child support order issued by a tribunal of this State is  
39 modified by a tribunal of another state which assumed jurisdiction  
40 pursuant to the "Uniform Interstate Family Support Act,"  
41 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), a  
42 tribunal of this State:

43 a. may enforce its order that was modified only as to arrears  
44 and interest accruing before the modification;

45 b. may provide appropriate relief for violations of its order  
46 which occurred before the effective date of the modification; and

47 c. shall recognize the modifying order of the other state, upon  
48 registration, for the purpose of enforcement.

1       57. (New section) Jurisdiction to modify child support order of  
2 another state when parties reside in this State.

3       a. If all of the parties who are individuals reside in this State  
4 and the child does not reside in the issuing state, a tribunal of this  
5 State has jurisdiction to enforce and to modify the issuing state's  
6 child support order in a proceeding to register that order.

7       b. A tribunal of this State exercising jurisdiction under this  
8 section shall apply the provisions of Articles 1 and 2, this article,  
9 and the procedural and substantive law of this State to the  
10 proceeding for enforcement or modification. Articles 3, 4, 5, 7, and  
11 8 of this act do not apply.

12

13       58. (New section) Notice to issuing tribunal of modification.

14       Within 30 days after issuance of a modified child support order,  
15 the party obtaining the modification shall file a certified copy of the  
16 order with the issuing tribunal that had continuing, exclusive  
17 jurisdiction over the earlier order, and in each tribunal in which the  
18 party knows the earlier order has been registered. A party who  
19 obtains the order and fails to file a certified copy is subject to  
20 appropriate sanctions by a tribunal in which the issue of failure to  
21 file arises. The failure to file does not affect the validity or  
22 enforceability of the modified order of the new tribunal having  
23 continuing, exclusive jurisdiction.

24               PART 4 -- REGISTRATION AND MODIFICATION  
25               OF FOREIGN CHILD SUPPORT ORDER

26

27       59. (New section) Jurisdiction to modify child support order of  
28 foreign country.

29       a. Except as otherwise provided in section 71 of this act, if a  
30 foreign country lacks or refuses to exercise jurisdiction to modify  
31 its child support order pursuant to its laws, a tribunal of this State  
32 may assume jurisdiction to modify the child support order and bind  
33 all individuals subject to the personal jurisdiction of the tribunal  
34 whether the consent to modification of a child support order  
35 otherwise required of the individual pursuant to section 55 of this  
36 act has been given or whether the individual seeking modification is  
37 a resident of this State or of the foreign country.

38       b. An order issued by a tribunal of this State modifying a  
39 foreign child support order pursuant to this section is the controlling  
40 order.

41

42       60. (New section) Procedure to register child support order of  
43 foreign country for modification.

44       A party or support enforcement agency seeking to modify, or to  
45 modify and enforce, a foreign child support order not under the  
46 Convention may register that order in this State under sections 45  
47 through 52 of this act if the order has not been registered. A petition  
48 for modification may be filed at the same time as a request for

1 registration, or at another time. The petition shall specify the  
2 grounds for modification.

3

4

ARTICLE 7

5

SUPPORT PROCEEDING UNDER CONVENTION

6

7 61. (New section) Definitions.

8

As used in this article:

9 “Application” means a request under the Convention by an  
10 obligee or obligor, or on behalf of a child, made through a central  
11 authority for assistance from another central authority.

12 “Central authority” means the entity designated by the United  
13 States or a foreign country described in paragraph (4) of subsection  
14 e. of section 2 of this act to perform the functions specified in the  
15 Convention.

16 “Convention support order” means a support order of a tribunal  
17 of a foreign country described in paragraph (4) of subsection e. of  
18 section 2 of this act.

19 “Direct request” means an application filed by an individual in a  
20 tribunal of this State in a proceeding involving an obligee, obligor,  
21 or child residing outside the United States.

22 “Foreign central authority” means the entity designated by a  
23 foreign country described in paragraph (4) of subsection e. of  
24 section 2 of this act to perform the functions specified in the  
25 Convention.

26 “Foreign support agreement”: means an agreement for support in  
27 a record that: (1) is enforceable as a support order in the country of  
28 origin; (2) has been: (a) formally drawn up or registered as an  
29 authentic instrument by a foreign tribunal; or (b) authenticated by,  
30 or concluded, registered, or filed with a foreign tribunal; and (c)  
31 may be reviewed and modified by a foreign tribunal; and (3)  
32 includes a maintenance arrangement or authentic instrument under  
33 the Convention.

34 “United States central authority” means the Secretary of the  
35 United States Department of Health and Human Services.

36

37 62. (New section) Applicability.

38 This article applies only to a support proceeding under the  
39 Convention. In such a proceeding, if a provision of this article is  
40 inconsistent with Articles 1 through 6 of this act, this article  
41 controls.

42

43 63. (New section) Relationship of the State IV-D agency to  
44 United States central authority.

45 The State IV-D Agency or its designee is recognized as the  
46 agency designated by the United States central authority to perform  
47 specific functions under the Convention.

1       64. (New section) Initiation by the State IV-D Agency of  
2 support proceeding under Convention.

3       a. In a support proceeding under this article, the State IV-D  
4 Agency or its designee shall:

5       (1) transmit and receive applications; and

6       (2) initiate or facilitate the institution of a proceeding regarding  
7 an application in a tribunal of this State.

8       b. The following support proceedings are available to an  
9 obligee under the Convention:

10       (1) recognition or recognition and enforcement of a foreign  
11 support order;

12       (2) enforcement of a support order issued or recognized in this  
13 State;

14       (3) establishment of a support order if there is no existing order,  
15 including, if necessary, determination of parentage of a child;

16       (4) establishment of a support order if recognition of a foreign  
17 support order is refused under paragraph (2), (4), or (9) of  
18 subsection b. of section 68 of this act;

19       (5) modification of a support order of a tribunal of this State;  
20 and

21       (6) modification of a support order of a tribunal of another state  
22 or a foreign country.

23       c. The following support proceedings are available under the  
24 Convention to an obligor against which there is an existing support  
25 order:

26       (1) recognition of an order suspending or limiting enforcement  
27 of an existing support order of a tribunal of this State;

28       (2) modification of a support order of a tribunal of this State;  
29 and

30       (3) modification of a support order of a tribunal of another state  
31 or a foreign country.

32       d. A tribunal of this State may not require security, bond, or  
33 deposit, however described, to guarantee the payment of costs and  
34 expenses in proceedings under the Convention.

35  
36       65. (New section) Direct request.

37       a. A petitioner may file a direct request seeking establishment  
38 or modification of a support order or determination of parentage of  
39 a child. In the proceeding, the law of this State applies.

40       b. A petitioner may file a direct request seeking recognition  
41 and enforcement of a support order or support agreement. In the  
42 proceeding, sections 66 through 73 of this act.

43       c. In a direct request for recognition and enforcement of a  
44 Convention support order or foreign support agreement:

45       (1) a security, bond, or deposit is not required to guarantee the  
46 payment of costs and expenses; and

47       (2) an obligee or obligor that in the issuing country has  
48 benefited from free legal assistance is entitled to benefit, at least to

1 the same extent, from any free legal assistance provided for by the  
2 law of this State under the same circumstances.

3 d. A petitioner filing a direct request is not entitled to  
4 assistance from the State IV-D Agency or its designee.

5 e. This article does not prevent the application of laws of this  
6 State that provide simplified, more expeditious rules regarding a  
7 direct request for recognition and enforcement of a foreign support  
8 order or foreign support agreement.

9  
10 66. (New section) Registration of Convention support order.

11 a. Except as otherwise provided in this article, a party who is  
12 an individual or a support enforcement agency seeking recognition  
13 of a Convention support order shall register the order in this State  
14 as provided in Article 6.

15 b. Notwithstanding section 27 and subsection a. of section 46  
16 of this act, a request for registration of a Convention support order  
17 shall be accompanied by:

18 (1) a complete text of the support order or an abstract or extract  
19 of the support order drawn up by the issuing foreign tribunal, which  
20 may be in the form recommended by the Hague Conference on  
21 Private International Law;

22 (2) a record stating that the support order is enforceable in the  
23 issuing country;

24 (3) if the respondent did not appear and was not represented in  
25 the proceedings in the issuing country, a record attesting, as  
26 appropriate, either that the respondent had proper notice of the  
27 proceedings and an opportunity to be heard or that the respondent  
28 had proper notice of the support order and an opportunity to be  
29 heard in a challenge or appeal on fact or law before a tribunal;

30 (4) a record showing the amount of arrears, if any, and the date  
31 the amount was calculated;

32 (5) a record showing a requirement for automatic adjustment of  
33 the amount of support, if any, and the information necessary to  
34 make the appropriate calculations; and

35 (6) if necessary, a record showing the extent to which the  
36 applicant received free legal assistance in the issuing country.

37 c. A request for registration of a Convention support order may  
38 seek recognition and partial enforcement of the order.

39 d. A tribunal of this State may vacate the registration of a  
40 Convention support order without the filing of a contest under  
41 section 67 of this act only if, acting on its own motion, the tribunal  
42 finds that recognition and enforcement of the order would be  
43 manifestly incompatible with public policy.

44 e. The tribunal shall promptly notify the parties of the  
45 registration or the order vacating the registration of a Convention  
46 support order.

1       67. (New section) Contest of registered Convention support  
2 order.

3       a. Except as otherwise provided in this article, sections 49  
4 through 52 of this act apply to a contest of a registered Convention  
5 support order.

6       b. A party contesting a registered Convention support order  
7 shall file a contest not later than 30 days after notice of the  
8 registration, but if the contesting party does not reside in the United  
9 States, the contest shall be filed not later than 60 days after notice  
10 of the registration.

11       c. If the nonregistering party fails to contest the registered  
12 Convention support order by the time specified in subsection b., the  
13 order is enforceable.

14       d. A contest of a registered Convention support order may be  
15 based only on grounds set forth in section 68 of this act. The  
16 contesting party bears the burden of proof.

17       e. In a contest of a registered Convention support order, a  
18 tribunal of this State:

19       (1) is bound by the findings of fact on which the foreign tribunal  
20 based its jurisdiction; and

21       (2) may not review the merits of the order.

22       f. A tribunal of this State deciding a contest of a registered  
23 Convention support order shall promptly notify the parties of its  
24 decision.

25       g. A challenge or appeal, if any, does not stay the enforcement  
26 of a Convention support order unless there are exceptional  
27 circumstances.

28

29       68. (New section) Recognition and enforcement of registered  
30 Convention support order.

31       a. Except as otherwise provided in subsection b., a tribunal of  
32 this State shall recognize and enforce a registered Convention  
33 support order.

34       b. The following grounds are the only grounds on which a  
35 tribunal of this State may refuse recognition and enforcement of a  
36 registered Convention support order:

37       (1) recognition and enforcement of the order is manifestly  
38 incompatible with public policy, including the failure of the issuing  
39 tribunal to observe minimum standards of due process, which  
40 include notice and an opportunity to be heard;

41       (2) the issuing tribunal lacked personal jurisdiction consistent  
42 with section 6 of this act ;

43       (3) the order is not enforceable in the issuing country;

44       (4) the order was obtained by fraud in connection with a matter  
45 of procedure;

46       (5) a record transmitted in accordance with section 66 of this act  
47 lacks authenticity or integrity;

1 (6) a proceeding between the same parties and having the same  
2 purpose is pending before a tribunal of this State and that  
3 proceeding was the first to be filed;

4 (7) the order is incompatible with a more recent support order  
5 involving the same parties and having the same purpose if the more  
6 recent support order is entitled to recognition and enforcement  
7 under this act in this State;

8 (8) payment, to the extent alleged arrears have been paid in  
9 whole or in part;

10 (9) in a case in which the respondent neither appeared nor was  
11 represented in the proceeding in the issuing foreign country:

12 (a) if the law of that country provides for prior notice of  
13 proceedings, the respondent did not have proper notice of the  
14 proceedings and an opportunity to be heard; or

15 (b) if the law of that country does not provide for prior notice of  
16 the proceedings, the respondent did not have proper notice of the  
17 order and an opportunity to be heard in a challenge or appeal on fact  
18 or law before a tribunal; or

19 (10) the order was made in violation of section 71 of this act.

20 c. If a tribunal of this State does not recognize a Convention  
21 support order under paragraph (2), (4) or (9) of subsection b. of this  
22 section:

23 (1) the tribunal may not dismiss the proceeding without  
24 allowing a reasonable time for a party to request the establishment  
25 of a new Convention support order; and

26 (2) the State IV-D Agency or its designee shall take all  
27 appropriate measures to request a child support order for the obligee  
28 if the application for recognition and enforcement was received  
29 under section 64 of this act.

30

31 69. (New section) Partial enforcement.

32 If a tribunal of this State does not recognize and enforce a  
33 Convention support order in its entirety, it shall enforce any  
34 severable part of the order. An application or direct request may  
35 seek recognition and partial enforcement of a Convention support  
36 order.

37

38 70. (New section) Foreign support agreement.

39 a. Except as otherwise provided in subsections c. and d., a  
40 tribunal of this State shall recognize and enforce a foreign support  
41 agreement registered in this State.

42 b. An application or direct request for recognition and  
43 enforcement of a foreign support agreement shall be accompanied  
44 by:

45 (1) a complete text of the foreign support agreement; and

46 (2) a record stating that the foreign support agreement is  
47 enforceable as an order of support in the issuing country.

1       c. A tribunal of this State may vacate the registration of a  
2 foreign support agreement only if, acting on its own motion, the  
3 tribunal finds that recognition and enforcement would be manifestly  
4 incompatible with public policy.

5       d. In a contest of a foreign support agreement, a tribunal of this  
6 State may refuse recognition and enforcement of the agreement if it  
7 finds:

8       (1) recognition and enforcement of the agreement is manifestly  
9 incompatible with public policy;

10       (2) the agreement was obtained by fraud or falsification;

11       (3) the agreement is incompatible with a support order involving  
12 the same parties and having the same purpose in this State, another  
13 state, or a foreign country if the support order is entitled to  
14 recognition and enforcement under this act in this State; or

15       (4) the record submitted under subsection b. lacks authenticity  
16 or integrity.

17       e. A proceeding for recognition and enforcement of a foreign  
18 support agreement shall be suspended during the pendency of a  
19 challenge to or appeal of the agreement before a tribunal of another  
20 state or a foreign country.

21

22       71. (New section) Modification of Convention child support  
23 order.

24       a. A tribunal of this State may not modify a Convention child  
25 support order if the obligee remains a resident of the foreign  
26 country where the support order was issued unless:

27       (1) the obligee submits to the jurisdiction of a tribunal of this  
28 State, either expressly or by defending on the merits of the case  
29 without objecting to the jurisdiction at the first available  
30 opportunity; or

31       (2) the foreign tribunal lacks or refuses to exercise jurisdiction  
32 to modify its support order or issue a new support order.

33       b. If a tribunal of this State does not modify a Convention child  
34 support order because the order is not recognized in this State,  
35 subsection c. of section 68 of this act applies.

36

37       72. (New section) Personal information; limit on use.

38       Personal information gathered or transmitted under this article  
39 may be used only for the purposes for which it was gathered or  
40 transmitted.

41

42       73. (New section) Record in original language; English  
43 translation.

44       A record filed with a tribunal of this State under this article shall  
45 be in the original language and, if not in English, shall be  
46 accompanied by an English translation.



1 ARTICLE 8  
2 INTERSTATE RENDITION  
3

4 74. (New section) Grounds for rendition.

5 a. For purposes of this article, “governor” includes an  
6 individual performing the functions of governor or the executive  
7 authority of a state covered by this act.

8 b. The Governor of this State may:

9 (1) demand that the governor of another state surrender an  
10 individual found in the other state who is charged criminally in this  
11 State with having failed to provide for the support of an obligee; or

12 (2) on the demand of the governor of another state, surrender an  
13 individual found in this State who is charged criminally in the other  
14 state with having failed to provide for the support of an obligee.

15 c. A provision for extradition of individuals not inconsistent  
16 with this act applies to the demand even if the individual whose  
17 surrender is demanded was not in the demanding state when the  
18 crime was allegedly committed and has not fled therefrom.  
19

20 75. (New section) Conditions of rendition.

21 a. Before making a demand that the governor of another state  
22 surrender an individual charged criminally in this State with having  
23 failed to provide for the support of an obligee, the Governor of this  
24 State may require a prosecutor of this State to demonstrate that at  
25 least 60 days previously the obligee had initiated proceedings for  
26 support pursuant to this act or that the proceeding would be of no  
27 avail.

28 b. If, under this act or a law substantially similar to this act, the  
29 governor of another state makes a demand that the Governor of this  
30 State surrender an individual charged criminally in that state with  
31 having failed to provide for the support of a child or other  
32 individual to whom a duty of support is owed, the governor may  
33 require a prosecutor to investigate the demand and report whether a  
34 proceeding for support has been initiated or would be effective. If it  
35 appears that a proceeding would be effective but has not been  
36 initiated, the governor may delay honoring the demand for a  
37 reasonable time to permit the initiation of a proceeding.

38 c. If a proceeding for support has been initiated and the  
39 individual whose rendition is demanded prevails, the governor may  
40 decline to honor the demand. If the petitioner prevails and the  
41 individual whose rendition is demanded is subject to a support  
42 order, the governor may decline to honor the demand if the  
43 individual is complying with the support order.  
44

45 ARTICLE 9  
46 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS  
47

48 76. (New section) Uniformity of application and construction.

1 In applying and construing this uniform act, consideration shall  
2 be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with respect  
3 to its subject matter among states that enact it.

4  
5 77. (New section) Transitional provision.

6 a. This act applies to proceedings begun on or after the  
7 effective date of this act to establish a support order or determine  
8 parentage of a child or to register, recognize, enforce, or modify a  
9 prior support order, determination, or agreement, whenever issued  
10 or entered.

11 b. The repeal of P.L.1981, c.243 (C.2A:4-30.24 et seq.) and  
12 sections 15 and 16 of P.L.1985, c.278 (C.2A:17-56.18 and 2A:17-  
13 56.19) and the repeal of the former "Uniform Interstate Family  
14 Support Act," P.L.1998, c.2 (C.2A:4-30.65 through 2A:4-30.123)  
15 and its replacement with this act does not affect pending actions,  
16 rights, duties or liabilities based on those repealed laws, nor does it  
17 alter, discharge, release or extinguish any penalty, forfeiture, or  
18 liability incurred under those laws. After the effective date of this  
19 act, all laws repealed shall be treated as remaining in full force and  
20 effect for the purpose of sustaining any pending actions or rights  
21 filed prior to the effective date of this act and the enforcement of  
22 any rights, duties, penalties, forfeitures, or liabilities under the  
23 repealed laws.

24  
25 78. (New section) Severability.

26 If any provision of this act or its application to any person or  
27 circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other  
28 provisions or applications of this act which can be given effect  
29 without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the  
30 provisions of this act are severable.

31  
32 79. Section 11 of P.L.1996, c.7 (C.2A:17-56.49) is amended to  
33 read as follows:

34 11. The license revocation provisions of P.L.1996, c.7 (C.2A:17-  
35 56.41 et seq.) apply to all orders issued before or after the effective  
36 date of P.L.1996, c.7 (C.2A:17-56.41 et seq.). All child support  
37 arrearage and health care coverage provisions in existence on or  
38 before the effective date of P.L.1996, c.7 (C.2A:17-56.41 et seq.)  
39 shall be included in determining whether a case is eligible for  
40 enforcement in accordance with P.L.1996, c.7 (C.2A:17-56.41 et  
41 seq.). P.L.1996, c.7 (C.2A:17-56.41 et seq.) applies to all child  
42 support obligations ordered by any state, territory or district of the  
43 United States that are being enforced by the Probation Division,  
44 that are payable directly to the obligee, or have been registered in  
45 this State in accordance with the "Uniform Interstate Family  
46 Support Act," originally enacted as P.L.1998, c.2 (C.2A:4-30.65 et

1 seq.), and repealed and replaced by P.L. , c. (pending before  
2 the Legislature as this bill).

3 (cf: P.L.1998, c.1, s.31)

4  
5 80. Section 3 of P.L.1998, c.1 (C.2A:17-56.52) is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 3. As used in P.L.1998, c.1 (C.2A:17-56.7a et al.), P.L.1981,  
8 c.417 (C.2A:17-56.8 et al.), P.L.1988, c.111 (C.2A:17-56.23a),  
9 sections 13, 17 through 20 and 22 of P.L.1985, c.278 (C.2A:17-  
10 56.16, 2A:17-56.20 through 2A:17-56.23, and 2A:17-56.25),  
11 P.L.1990, c.53 (C.2A:17-56.13a), sections 5 and 6 of P.L.1990,  
12 c.92 (C.2A:17-56.9a and 2A:17-56.9b), P.L.1995, c.287 (C.2A:17-  
13 56.11a), P.L.1995, c.290 (C.2A:17-56.11b), P.L.1995,  
14 c.322 (C.2A:17-56.34 et seq.) and P.L.1996, c.7 (C.2A:17-56.41 et  
15 seq.):

16 "Account" means a demand deposit account, checking or  
17 negotiable order of withdrawal account, savings account, time  
18 deposit account, or money market mutual fund account. "Account"  
19 also includes an equity securities account if permitted under federal  
20 law.

21 "Administrative enforcement" means the use of high volume  
22 automated data processing to search various State data bases,  
23 including, but not limited to, license records, employment service  
24 data and State new hire registries, to determine whether information  
25 is available in response to a request made by another jurisdiction to  
26 enforce a support order.

27 "Appropriate enforcement methods" means mechanisms such as  
28 income withholding, withholding of civil lawsuits, and execution of  
29 the assets of the obligor which can result in immediate payment of  
30 the child support arrearage when available. In appropriate cases,  
31 the license revocation process may be used as an alternative to Rule  
32 5:7-5 of the court rules.

33 "Arrearage" means the amount of unpaid support as determined  
34 by a court order or an administrative order from a state for support  
35 of a child or of a child and the custodial parent.

36 "Child" means a person, whether over or under the age of  
37 majority, who is or is alleged to be owed a duty of child support by  
38 that person's parent or who is or is alleged to be the beneficiary of a  
39 support order directed to the parent.

40 "Child support" means the amount required to be paid under a  
41 judgment, decree, or order, whether temporary, final or subject to  
42 modification, issued by the Superior Court, Chancery Division,  
43 Family Part or a court or administrative agency of competent  
44 jurisdiction of another state, for the support and maintenance of a  
45 child, or the support and maintenance of a child and the parent with  
46 whom the child is living, which provides monetary support, health  
47 care coverage, any arrearage or reimbursement, and which may

1 include other related costs and fees, interest and penalties, income  
2 withholding, attorney's fees and other relief.

3 "Child support related warrant" means an outstanding warrant for  
4 the arrest of a child support obligor or putative father issued by the  
5 court for failure to pay child support as ordered, failure to appear at  
6 a hearing to establish paternity or child support, or failure to appear  
7 at a hearing to enforce a child support order.

8 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

9 "Court" means the Superior Court, Chancery Division, Family  
10 Part.

11 "Court order" means an order of the court or an order from an  
12 administrative or judicial tribunal in another state that is competent  
13 to enter or modify orders for paternity or child support.

14 "Court rules" means the Rules Governing the Courts of the State  
15 of New Jersey.

16 "Credit reporting agency" means a nationally recognized credit  
17 reporting agency as approved by the commissioner and defined in  
18 the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. s. 1681a(f)) as any  
19 entity which, for monetary fees, dues, or on a cooperative nonprofit  
20 basis, regularly engages in whole or in part in the practice of  
21 assembling or evaluating consumer credit information or other  
22 information on consumers for the purpose of furnishing reports to  
23 third parties and which uses any means or facility of interstate  
24 commerce for the purpose of preparing or furnishing consumer  
25 reports.

26 "Custodial parent" means the parent or other person who has  
27 legal and physical custody of a child for the majority of the time.  
28 The custodial parent is responsible for the day-to-day decisions  
29 related to the child and for providing the basic needs of the child on  
30 a daily basis. The custodial parent is the person to whom child  
31 support is payable. In shared parenting situations, the custodial  
32 parent is known as the Parent of Primary Residence.

33 "Default order" means a court order entered due to a party's  
34 failure to answer a complaint or motion or to appear at a court  
35 proceeding as required, after being properly served with notice.

36 "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

37 "Employee" means an individual who is an employee within the  
38 meaning of chapter 24 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.  
39 Employee does not include an employee of a federal or state agency  
40 performing intelligence or counter-intelligence functions, if the  
41 head of such agency has determined that reporting could endanger  
42 the safety of the employee or compromise an ongoing investigation  
43 or intelligence mission.

44 "Employer" has the meaning given the term in section 3401(d) of  
45 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and includes any governmental  
46 entity and labor organization.

47 "Financial institution" means: a depository institution as defined  
48 in 12 U.S.C. s.1813(c); an institution affiliated party as defined in

1 12 U.S.C. s.1813(u); a federal or State credit union as defined in  
2 12 U.S.C. s.1752, including an institution affiliated party of a credit  
3 union as defined in 12 U.S.C. s.1786(r); a benefit association,  
4 insurance company, safe deposit company, money market mutual  
5 fund, or similar entity authorized to do business in this State.  
6 "Financial institution" also includes an investment and loan  
7 corporation if permitted under federal law.

8 "Health care coverage" means cash medical support, health  
9 insurance, dental insurance, eye care, pharmaceutical assistance and  
10 other types of medical support which are ordered by the court to  
11 maintain the health coverage of a child.

12 "Income" for the purposes of enforcing a support order, means,  
13 but is not limited to, commissions, salaries, earnings, wages, rent  
14 monies, unemployment compensation, workers' compensation, any  
15 legal or equitable interest or entitlement owed that was acquired by  
16 a cause of action, suit, claim or counterclaim, insurance benefits,  
17 claims, accounts, assets of estates, inheritances, trusts, federal or  
18 State income tax refunds, homestead rebates, State lottery prizes,  
19 casino and racetrack winnings, annuities, retirement benefits,  
20 veteran's benefits, union benefits, or any other earnings or other  
21 periodic entitlements to money from any source and any other  
22 property subject to withholding for child support pursuant to State  
23 law.

24 For the purposes of establishing a support order, income is  
25 defined pursuant to the child support guidelines in Appendix IX of  
26 the court rules.

27 "Labor organization" means a labor organization as defined in  
28 paragraph (5) of section 2 of the federal "National Labor Relations  
29 Act" (29 U.S.C. s.152) and includes any entity used by the  
30 organization and an employer to carry out the requirements of  
31 paragraph (3) of subsection (f) of section 8 of that act  
32 (29 U.S.C. s.158(f)(3)) or an agreement between the organization  
33 and the employer.

34 "License" means any license, registration or certificate issued by  
35 the State or its agencies or boards that is directly necessary to  
36 provide a product or service for compensation, to operate a motor  
37 vehicle, or for recreational or sporting purposes.

38 "Licensing authority" means any department, division, board,  
39 agency or other instrumentality of State government that issues a  
40 license, registration, certificate or other authorization to provide  
41 goods or services for compensation, to operate a motor vehicle, or  
42 for recreational or sporting purposes.

43 "Non-custodial parent" means the parent who does not have  
44 physical custody of the child on a day-to-day basis. In shared  
45 parenting situations, the non-custodial parent is known as the Parent  
46 of Alternate Residence.

47 "Obligee" means an individual to whom a duty of support is or is  
48 alleged to be owed or in whose favor a support order has been

1 issued or a judgment determining parentage has been rendered; a  
2 state or political subdivision to which the rights under a duty of  
3 support or support order have been assigned or which has  
4 independent claims based on financial assistance provided to an  
5 individual obligee; or an individual seeking a judgment determining  
6 parentage of the individual's child or providing for the support of a  
7 child.

8 "Obligor" means an individual, or the estate of a decedent, who  
9 owes or is alleged to owe a duty of support, who is alleged but has  
10 not been adjudicated to be a parent of a child, or who is liable under  
11 a support order.

12 "Payor" means an employer or individual or entity that disburses  
13 or is in possession of income or assets payable to an obligor.

14 "Probation Division" means the Probation Division of the  
15 Superior Court, Chancery Division, Family Part.

16 "RURESA" means the "Revised Uniform Reciprocal  
17 Enforcement of Support Act (1968)," adopted in New Jersey as  
18 P.L.1981, c.243 (C.2A:4-30.24 et seq.).

19 "Spousal support" means a legally enforceable obligation  
20 assessed against a person for the support of a spouse or former  
21 spouse.

22 "State case registry" means the automated system maintained by  
23 the State IV-D agency that contains federally required information  
24 on child support cases.

25 "State IV-D agency" means the Department of Human Services.

26 "Support guidelines" means the set of presumptive standards for  
27 determining the amount of child support as established by the court  
28 in Appendix IX of the court rules.

29 "Support order" means a judgment, decree, or order, whether  
30 temporary, final or subject to modification, for the benefit of a  
31 child, a spouse or a former spouse, which provides for monetary  
32 support, health care coverage, arrearages or reimbursement, and  
33 may include related costs and fees, interest, income withholding,  
34 attorney's fees and other relief.

35 A support order shall be issued by the court or a court or  
36 administrative agency of another state.

37 "TANF" means the "Temporary Assistance to Needy Families"  
38 program established pursuant to Title IV-A of the federal Social  
39 Security Act (42 U.S.C. s.601 et seq.). TANF includes the Work  
40 First New Jersey program for dependent children and their parents  
41 established pursuant to P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.).

42 "Title IV-D" means Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act  
43 (42 U.S.C. s.651 et seq.).

44 "Title IV-D case" means a case under Title IV-A or Title XIX of  
45 the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. s.601 et seq.) that  
46 involves an assignment of support rights, an appropriate referral  
47 under Title IV-E of the federal Social Security Act  
48 (42 U.S.C. s.670 et seq.), a non-public assistance case in which an

1 application for Title IV-D services has been filed and a fee paid, as  
2 appropriate, with the department, or an interstate case referred to  
3 the department by another jurisdiction.

4 "UIFSA" means the "Uniform Interstate Family Support Act,"  
5 P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), to be  
6 adopted by each state to replace RURESA pursuant to Pub.L.104-  
7 193 and the former "Uniform Interstate Family Support Act,"  
8 P.L.1998, c.2 (C.2A:4-30.65 through 2A:4-30.123).  
9 (cf: P.L. 1998, c.1, s.3)

10  
11 81. (New section) Repealer.

12 Sections 1 through 58 of P.L.1998, c.2 (C.2A:4-30.65 through  
13 2A:4-30.123) are repealed.

14  
15 82. Effective date.

16 This act shall take effect on April 1, 2016.

## 17 18 19 STATEMENT

20  
21 This bill enacts the new "Uniform Interstate Family Support  
22 Act," (UIFSA) and repeals the existing "Uniform Interstate Family  
23 Support Act," which was adopted in New Jersey as P.L.1998,  
24 c.2 (C.2A:4-30.65 et seq.). UIFSA provides uniform rules for the  
25 enforcement of family support orders.

26 In 2007, the United States signed the Hague Convention on the  
27 International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family  
28 Maintenance ("the Convention"). In 2008, the Uniform Law  
29 Commission approved amendments to UIFSA which incorporated  
30 the provisions required by the Convention. In 2014, Congress  
31 passed federal implementing legislation for the Convention, the  
32 "Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act,"  
33 Public Law No.113-183, which requires the 2008 UIFSA  
34 amendments be enacted in every jurisdiction by April 1, 2016 as a  
35 condition of continuing to receive federal funds for state child  
36 support programs.

37 This bill repeals New Jersey's 1998 version of UIFSA, sections 1  
38 through 58 of P.L.1998, c.2 (C.2A:4-30.65 through 2A:4-30.123),  
39 and implements a new UIFSA which encompasses those  
40 amendments promulgated by the Uniform Law Commission. This  
41 bill provides guidelines and procedures for the registration,  
42 enforcement and modification of foreign support orders. The bill  
43 establishes basic jurisdictional standards including continuing  
44 exclusive jurisdiction, rules for determining which state issues the  
45 controlling order in the event of proceedings in multiple  
46 jurisdictions, and rules for modifying support orders.

47 The most notable change is the addition of Article 7 to UIFSA  
48 which is new. This article establishes guidelines and procedures for

1 the registration, recognition, enforcement, and modification of  
2 foreign support orders of countries that are parties to the  
3 Convention. Article 7 provides that a party seeking recognition of a  
4 support order must register. Once registered, the tribunal notifies  
5 the parties and an opportunity to challenge the order is provided.  
6 Unless grounds for denying recognition of the order are established,  
7 the order is enforced. Another change is the addition to the UIFSA  
8 of a section concerning the conditions under which a tribunal has  
9 the authority to modify a spousal support order.

10 The following is a summary of the bill's provisions:

11 ARTICLE 1 (SECTIONS 1-5) GENERAL PROVISIONS:

- 12 • A definitional section which differs from the 1998 UIFSA  
13 statute by: (1) adding new definitions for: "convention,"  
14 "foreign country," "foreign support orders," "foreign  
15 tribunal" and "record"; and (2) expanding the definition of  
16 "obligor" to include a debtor in a proceeding under Article 7.
- 17 • The Superior Court, Chancery Division, Family Part is  
18 designated as the tribunal. The Probation Division of the  
19 Superior Court is designated the support enforcement  
20 agency.
- 21 • The procedures for establishment, enforcement, or  
22 modification of support or a determination of parentage  
23 under this act would not preclude the application of general  
24 State law.

25 ARTICLE 2 (SECTIONS 6-16) JURISDICTION:

- 26 • The bases for jurisdiction over a nonresident for the  
27 purposes of establishing a support order or determining  
28 parentage.
- 29 • The identification of the roles a tribunal may serve, either as  
30 an initiating or a responding tribunal.
- 31 • Procedures for simultaneous proceedings.
- 32 • Provides for continuing, exclusive jurisdiction of other  
33 tribunals over support orders and authorizes the initiation of  
34 requests for modification to the issuing state;
- 35 • Tribunals of the enacting states must adhere to the one order  
36 at a time system.
- 37 • Priority scheme for recognition and enforcement of existing  
38 multiple orders regarding the same obligor, obligee, and  
39 child.
- 40 • Method to handle multiple orders involving two or more  
41 families of the same obligor by treating all the orders as if  
42 they had been issued by a tribunal of this State.
- 43 • Credit for actual payments made against all existing orders.
- 44 • New section which provides for continuing, exclusive  
45 jurisdiction to modify spousal support order.

46 ARTICLE 3 (SECTIONS 17-35) CIVIL PROVISIONS OF GENERAL  
47 APPLICATION:



- 1       • Procedures for initiation of a proceeding by an individual or
- 2       a support enforcement agency.
- 3       • Allows proceedings by minor parent.
- 4       • Insures efficient processing of interstate and intrastate
- 5       support cases.
- 6       • Establishes procedures for transmittal of documents or
- 7       issuing certificates and for converting the support amount
- 8       owed to an equivalent amount in the foreign country.
- 9       • Enumerates the duties and powers of the responding
- 10      tribunal, such as ordering compliance with a support order,
- 11      providing for income withholding, determining arrearages,
- 12      issuing bench warrants and placing liens.
- 13      • Enumerates the duties of a support enforcement agency.
- 14      • Provides for the Attorney General to take appropriate action
- 15      concerning neglect to provide services by the support
- 16      enforcement agency. The Attorney General may apply to the
- 17      Superior Court for an order.
- 18      • Allows a party to retain private counsel in an action.
- 19      (Currently, the State IV-D agency may provide counsel in
- 20      IV-D case to the petitioner or support agency under certain
- 21      circumstances.)
- 22      • Enumerates the duties of the Administrative Office of the
- 23      Courts as the State information agency.
- 24      • Establishes the basic requirements for the drafting and filing
- 25      of interstate pleadings.
- 26      • Nondisclosure of information when the health, safety, or
- 27      liberty of a party or child would be jeopardized. Such
- 28      information would be sealed.
- 29      • Assessment of fees and costs.
- 30      • Limited immunity of petitioner.
- 31      • A party whose parentage of a child has been previously
- 32      determined cannot plead nonparentage as a defense under
- 33      the bill.
- 34      • Provides for applicable rules of evidence and procedure
- 35      including privileges against disclosure of communications
- 36      between spouses, and admission of voluntary
- 37      acknowledgments of paternity to establish parentage of a
- 38      child.
- 39      • Provides for communication between courts in order to
- 40      expedite enforcement of the support order.
- 41      • Facilitation of cooperation in the discovery process.
- 42      • Prompt disbursal of any amounts received by a support
- 43      enforcement agency pursuant to a support order.
- 44      ARTICLE 4 (SECTIONS 36-37) ESTABLISHMENT OF SUPPORT ORDER
- 45      OR DETERMINATION OF PARENTAGE:

- 1       • Authorization for a tribunal of the responding state to issue
- 2       support orders binding on an obligor over whom the tribunal
- 3       has personal jurisdiction.
- 4       • Proceeding to determine parentage.
- 5 ARTICLE 5 (SECTIONS 38-44) ENFORCEMENT OF SUPPORT ORDER
- 6 WITHOUT REGISTRATION:
- 7       • Recognition by the obligor's employer of a withholding
- 8       order issued by another state.
- 9       • Authorization for summary enforcement of support order
- 10      through any administrative means.
- 11      • Immunity for employer who complies with a withholding
- 12      order.
- 13      • Procedures for contesting the validity of an order.
- 14 ARTICLE 6 (SECTIONS 45-60) REGISTRATION, ENFORCEMENT, AND
- 15 MODIFICATION OF SUPPORT ORDER:
- 16      Part 1- (sections 45-48) registration for enforcement of support
- 17      orders:
- 18      • Procedures for the registration of a support order issued in
- 19      another state or a foreign support order for the purposes of
- 20      enforcement.
- 21      • Provides for choice of law.
- 22      Part 2 (sections 49-52) contest of validity or enforcement:
- 23      • Procedures to contest validity or enforcement of a registered
- 24      order.
- 25      • Confirmation of a support order which validates both the
- 26      terms of the order and the asserted arrearages.
- 27      Part 3 (sections 53-58) registration and modification of   child
- 28      support order of another state:
- 29      • Requirements for registration of child support order.
- 30      • Modification of support orders of another state.
- 31      • Recognition of a modified order of another state.
- 32      Part 4 (sections 59-60) registration and modification of foreign
- 33      child support order of another state:
- 34      • Procedures for modification of a support order if a foreign
- 35      country lacks or refuses to exercise jurisdiction to modify a
- 36      support order.
- 37      • Procedure to register foreign support orders.
- 38 ARTICLE 7 (SECTIONS 61-73) SUPPORT PROCEEDINGS UNDER
- 39 CONVENTION:
- 40      • Relationship of the State IV-D agency to the United States
- 41      central authority.
- 42      • Initiation of support proceedings by the State IV-D agency.
- 43      • Procedures for direct requests.
- 44      • Registration of Convention support orders.
- 45      • Procedures for contesting of registered Convention support
- 46      order.

- 1       • Recognition and enforcement of registered Convention
- 2       support order.
- 3       • Allows for enforcement of any part of a Convention support
- 4       orders, if a tribunal of this State does not recognize and
- 5       enforce an order in its entirety.
- 6       • Recognition and enforcement of foreign support agreement.
- 7       • Provides for modification of convention child support order.
- 8       • Record filed may be in original language, and if not in
- 9       English, it must be accompanied by an English translation.
- 10     ARTICLE 8 (SECTIONS 74-75) INTERSTATE RENDITION:
- 11       • For extradition of an individual who is charged criminally
- 12       with having failed to provide for the support of an obligee.
- 13       • Conditions that a Governor may implement before making
- 14       the demand for an individual's surrender or before honoring
- 15       this type of demand.
- 16     ARTICLE 9 (SECTIONS 76-78) MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS:
- 17       • Uniformity of application and construction of the act.
- 18       • The provisions of this bill apply to proceedings begun on or
- 19       after the effective date of the act.
- 20     AMENDMENTS TO THE CURRENT LAW; REPEALER; EFFECTIVE DATE
- 21     (SECTIONS 79-82):
- 22       This bill also amends several provisions of the existing statutory
- 23       law to cross-reference the new “Uniform Interstate Family Support
- 24       Act” as set forth in the bill.
- 25       The bill repeals the 1998 version of UIFSA, sections 1 through
- 26       58 of P.L. 1998, c.2 (C.2A:4-30.65 through 2A:4-30.123).
- 27       This bill would take effect on April 1, 2016.