House Bill 308 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Beskin of the 54th, Quick of the 117th, Willard of the 51st, Hanson of the 80th, Silcox of the 52nd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

To amend Title 19 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to domestic relations, 1 2 so as to enact provisions recommended by the Georgia Child Support Commission relating 3 to child support and the enforcement of child support orders; to harmonize provisions relating to the information required to be in a final judgment involving the payment of child 4 5 support; to clarify and correct definitions used with respect to the entity which collects child support and the collection of child support; to clarify provisions relating to child support; to 6 provide for the use of separate worksheets to an order of child support under certain 7 8 circumstances; to change provisions relating to parenting time; to change and clarify 9 provisions relating to income deduction orders; to change provisions relating to the family support registry; to change provisions relating to the "Child Support Recovery Act"; to 10 11 amend Code Sections 7-4-12.1, 10-1-393.10, and 31-10-9.1, Title 19, Article 5 of Chapter 12 3 of Title 42, and Article 2 of Chapter 27 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia 13 Annotated, relating to interest on arrearage on child support, filing of contracts for 14 collections, social security account information of parents, domestic relations diversion center and program for violation of alimony and child support orders, and setoff of debt 15 16 collection against lottery prizes, respectively, so as to harmonize and correct cross-references 17 and definitions; to amend Code Section 19-6-15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to child support in final verdict or decree, so as to enact a recommendation by the 18 Georgia Child Support Commission relating to child support; to change provisions relating 19 20 to work related child care costs; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and 21 for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

23 PART I 24 **SECTION 1-1.** 25 Title 19 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to domestic relations, is amended by revising Code Section 19-5-12, relating to the form of judgment and decree, as 26 27 follows: "19-5-12. 28 (a) A final judgment of divorce shall be prepared so as to conform to the pleadings and the 29 30 evidence and may restore a maiden or prior name, if requested. It shall be prepared in form 31 substantially as follows: 32 'FINAL JUDGMENT AND DECREE 33 Upon consideration of this case, upon evidence submitted as provided by law, it is the judgment of the court that a total divorce be granted, that is to say, a divorce a vinculo 34 35 matrimonii, between the parties to the above stated case upon legal principles. 36 It is considered, ordered, and decreed by the court that the marriage contract heretofore entered into between the parties to this case, from and after this date, be and is set aside 37 38 and dissolved as fully and effectually as if no such contract had ever been made or 39 entered into. 40 Petitioner and Respondent in the future shall be held and considered as separate and distinct persons individuals altogether unconnected by any nuptial union or civil contract 41 42 whatsoever and both shall have the right to remarry. 43 Decree and order entered this _____ day of _____, ____. 44 45 Judge, Superior Court' (b) When Where applicable, any one or more of the following clauses shall be included 46 47 in the form of the judgment: 48 The court restores to (Petitioner/Respondent) his/her prior or maiden name, to wit: 49 The court awards custody of the children of the parties as follows: 50 51 52 The court fixes alimony as follows: 53 (c) In any case which involves the determination of child support, the form of the 54

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judgment shall also include provisions indicating both parents' income, the number of

children for which support is being provided, the presumptive amount of child support

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57 award calculation, and, if the presumptive amount of child support is rebutted, the award amount and the basis for the rebuttal award all of the information set forth in paragraph (2) 58 59 of subsection (c) of Code Section 19-6-15. The final judgment shall have attached to it the 60 child support worksheet containing the calculation of the final award of child support and 61 Schedule E pertaining to deviations any schedule that was prepared for the purpose of 62 <u>calculating the amount of child support</u>. The final judgment shall specify a sum certain 63 amount of child support to be paid. 64 (d) When Where applicable, the court shall also include in the order the provisions of Code Section 19-6-30 concerning continuing garnishment for support and language in 65 66 compliance with Code Section 19-6-32 concerning income deduction orders final judgment 67 the ability to use income deduction orders as set forth in Code Sections 19-6-30 and 68 <u>19-6-32</u>."

69 **SECTION 1-2.**

Naid title is further amended by revising Code Section 19-6-14, relating to child support and

71 custody pending final divorce, as follows:

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Pending a final judgment in an action for divorce, the judge presiding may grant as alimony

temporary child support a sum sufficient for the support of the children of the parties in

75 <u>accordance with Code Section 19-6-15</u>. The judge may also hear and determine who shall

be entitled to the care and custody of the children until the final judgment in the case. If

a sum is awarded for the support of the children, the party who is required to pay the

support shall not be liable to third persons for necessaries furnished to the children."

79 **SECTION 1-3.**

80 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (6.1) of subsection (a) of Code Section

81 19-6-15, relating to child support in final verdict or decree, as follows:

82 "(6.1) 'Child support services' means the agency entity within the Department of Human

Services which provides and administers child support services and its contractors that

are authorized to enforce a duty of support."

85 **SECTION 1-4.**

86 Said title is further amended in subsection (b) of Code Section 19-6-15, relating to child

87 support in final verdict or decree, by deleting "and" at the end of paragraph (10), by replacing

88 the period with "; and" at the end of paragraph (11), and by adding a new paragraph to read

89 as follows:

"(12) When there is more than one child for whom support is being determined, the court shall establish the amount of support and the duration of such support in accordance with subsection (e) of this Code section. Separate worksheets shall be utilized for such determination and shall be attached to the final child support order. Such order shall contain findings as required by law."

SECTION 1-5.

96 Said title is further amended by revising subparagraphs (c)(2)(A), (c)(2)(B), and (c)(2)(C) 97 of Code Section 19-6-15, relating to child support in final verdict or decree, as follows:

- "(A) Specify in what sum certain amount, the duration of such support, and from which parent the child is entitled to permanent support as determined by use of the worksheet or multiple worksheets when there is more than one minor child;
- 101 (B) Specify as required by Code Section 19-5-12 in what manner, how often, to whom, and until when the support shall be paid;
- 103 (C) Include a written finding of <u>each</u> the parent's gross income as determined by the court or the jury;"

SECTION 1-6.

Said title is further amended by revising subparagraph (i)(2)(K) of Code Section 19-6-15, relating to child support in final verdict or decree, as follows:

"(K) Parenting time.

- (i) The child support obligation table is based upon expenditures for a child in intact households. The court may order or the jury may find by special interrogatory a deviation from the presumptive amount of child support when special circumstances make the presumptive amount of child support excessive or inadequate due to extended parenting time as set forth in the order of visitation, or when the child resides residing with both parents equally, or visitation rights not being utilized.
- (ii) If the court or the jury determines that a parenting time deviation is applicable, then such deviation shall be included with all other deviations and be treated as a deduction.
 - (iii) In accordance with subsection (d) of Code Section 19-11-8, if any action or claim for parenting time or a parenting time deviation is brought under this subparagraph, it shall be an action or claim solely between the custodial parent and the noncustodial parent, and not any third parties, including child support services."

122 **SECTION 1-7.**

123 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (l) of Code Section 19-6-15, relating to

- 124 child support in final verdict or decree, as follows:
- 125 "(1) **Split parenting.** In cases of split parenting, a worksheet shall be prepared separately
- for the by each custodial parent for each child for whom the father such parent is the
- custodial parent and for the child for whom the mother is the custodial parent, and that
- worksheet shall be filed with the clerk of court. For each split parenting custodial situation,
- the court shall determine:
- 130 (1) Which parent is the obligor;
- 131 (2) The presumptive amount of child support;
- 132 (3) The actual award of child support, if different from the presumptive amount of child
- support;
- 134 (4) How and when the sum certain amount of child support owed shall be paid; and
- 135 (5) Any other child support responsibilities for each parent."

136 **SECTION 1-8.**

- 137 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (m) of Code Section
- 138 19-6-15, relating to child support in the final verdict or decree, as follows:
- 139 "(1) Schedules and worksheets shall be prepared by the parties for purposes of
- calculating the amount of child support. In child support services cases in which neither
- parent prepared a worksheet, the court may rely on the worksheet prepared by child
- support services as a basis for its order. Information from the schedules shall be entered
- on the child support worksheet. The child support worksheet and, if there are any
- deviations, Schedule E worksheets and any schedule that was prepared for the purpose
- of calculating the amount of child support shall be attached to the final court order or
- judgment; provided, however, that any order entered pursuant to Code Section 19-13-4
- shall not be required to have such worksheet and schedule worksheets and schedules
- 148 attached thereto."

149 **SECTION 1-9.**

- 150 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 19-6-17, relating to application for
- child support following custody award, as follows:
- 152 "19-6-17.
- 153 (a) Whenever the custody of a minor child or children has been lawfully awarded by any
- 154 court having jurisdiction thereof to:

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(1) Any person individual other than a parent of the children such child at any time subsequent to the rendition of a final divorce decree between the father and mother of the children parents of such child; or

- (2) A parent as part of the final divorce decree where when the court awarding the decree was unable to obtain jurisdiction over the parent without custody for purposes of a determination as to whether the parent should be bound for support of the child or children such child and the court's decree contains no specific provisions binding the parent without custody for the support of the child or children such child,
- the parent or other person individual to whom the custody of the child or children such child is awarded may apply by petition to the superior court in the county where the parent without custody of the child or children such child resides for an order and judgment fixing the amount of support money that the parent without custody shall provide in order to fulfill the parent's natural duty to supply the necessaries of life for the child or children such child.
- (b) The procedure provided for in this Code section shall be available in cases in which the parent with custody of the children such child is the petitioner, notwithstanding the fact that the divorce decree and judgment may have been rendered in favor of the parent without custody.
- 173 (c) The petition shall be served upon the respondent; it. The petition shall be heard by the
 174 court, unless a jury trial is demanded by either party to the case. The judgment shall be
 175 reviewable as in other cases. The order or judgment shall likewise be subject to
 176 modification in the event of changed circumstances, under the same terms and conditions
 177 as are provided for in other cases of permanent alimony for the support of children child
 178 support granted in connection with the rendition of a final decree in divorce cases.
- (d) The order and judgment of the court shall remain in effect, except as limited by its own restrictions and subsection (c) of this Code section, so long as the petitioner remains in lawful custody of the child or children such child and until they become such child becomes 18 years of age. Execution may be granted to the petitioner for any sums past due under the order and judgment, in accordance with procedures in other cases of judgments for alimony.
- 185 (e) Any payment or installment of support under any child support order is, on and after the date due:
- 187 (1) A judgment by operation of law, with the full force and effect and attributes of a judgment of this state, including the ability to be enforced;
- 189 (2) Entitled as a judgment to full faith and credit; and
- 190 (3) Not subject to retroactive modification."

191 **SECTION 1-10.**

- 192 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (c) of Code Section 19-6-29, relating to
- inclusion of accident and sickness insurance coverage in order for child support and payroll
- 194 deductions, as follows:
- 195 "(c) An order for payroll deduction entered pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code section
- shall be consistent with the provisions of Code Sections 19-6-30 through 19-6-33
- 197 <u>19-6-33.1.</u>"
- 198 **SECTION 1-11.**
- 199 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 19-6-30, relating to provision for
- 200 collection by continuing garnishment for support, as follows:
- 201 "19-6-30.
- 202 (a) Any order of support of a child entered or modified on or after July 1, 1985, shall
- 203 contain the following provision:
- Whenever, in violation of the terms of this order there shall have been a failure to make
- the support payments due hereunder so that the amount unpaid is equal to or greater than
- the amount payable for one month, the payments required to be made may be collected
- by the process of continuing garnishment for support.'
- 208 (b) Any order of support entered or modified prior to July 1, 1985, shall be construed as
- a matter of law to contain the provision set forth in subsection (a) of this Code section.
- 210 (c)(b) All Title IV-D (child support recovery) cases involving orders of support of a child
- or spouse entered or modified prior to July 1, 1989, or thereafter being enforced by the
- 212 <u>entity within the Department of Human Services and its contractors that are authorized to</u>
- 213 <u>enforce support orders</u> shall be subject to income deduction as defined in Code Sections
- 214 19-6-31, 19-6-32, and 19-6-33 orders as set forth in Code Sections 19-6-32 through
- 215 19-6-33.1."
- 216 **SECTION 1-12.**
- 217 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 19-6-31, relating to definitions, as
- 218 follows:
- 219 "19-6-31.
- 220 As used in Code Sections 19-6-32 and 19-6-33, the term:
- 221 (1) 'Accruing on a daily basis' means the amount of support computed by conversion of
- the periodic amount to an annual sum, divided by 365.
- 223 (2) 'Court' includes proceedings conducted by an appointed court referee and
- 224 proceedings conducted pursuant to Chapter 13 of Title 50, the 'Georgia Administrative

225 Procedure Act,' as relates to the enforcement of the duty of support as defined in Chapter

- 226 11 of Title 19.
- 227 (3) 'Department' means the Department of Human Services.
- 228 (4) 'Family member' means any minor child of the defendant or a spouse or former
- spouse of the defendant.
- 230 (5) 'Income' or 'earnings' means any periodic form of payment due to an individual,
- 231 regardless of source, including without limitation wages, salary, commission, bonus,
- 232 workers' compensation, disability, payments pursuant to a pension or retirement program,
- 233 and interest.
- (6) 'IV-D' means Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act.
- 235 (7) 'IV-D agency' means the Child Support Enforcement Agency of the Department of
- 236 Human Services and its contractors.
- 237 (8) 'IV-D judgment' means any order or judgment of a court of this state, any order or
- 238 judgment of a court of another state or any final administrative order issued by another
- state and transmitted to this state for the purpose of wage deduction pursuant to Code
- Section 19-6-33, any order of this state entered pursuant to a proceeding under Chapter
- 241 10 of Title 19, or any final administrative order for support issued by the department
- 242 under Chapter 13 of Title 50, the 'Georgia Administrative Procedure Act.'
- 243 (8.1) 'National Medical Support Notice' means a notice as prescribed under 42 U.S.C.
- Section 666(a)(19), or a substantially similar notice, which is issued and forwarded by
- 245 the IV-D agency to enforce the medical support provisions of a support order.
- 246 (9) 'Periodic support' means support required by the terms of a court order or judgment
- or an administrative order to be paid regularly on a daily, weekly, monthly, or similar
- 248 specified frequency Reserved."
- 249 **SECTION 1-13.**
- 250 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 19-6-32, relating to entering income
- 251 deduction order or medical support notice for award of child support, as follows:
- 252 "19-6-32.
- 253 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:
- 254 (1) 'Child support enforcement agency' means the entity within the Department of
- 255 <u>Human Services and its contractors that are authorized to enforce a duty of support.</u>
- 256 (2) 'Court' means judge of any court of record or an administrative law judge of the
- 257 Office of State Administrative Hearings.
- 258 (3) 'Earnings' means any form of payment due to an individual, regardless of source,
- 259 <u>including without limitation wages, salary, commission, bonus, workers' compensation,</u>
- 260 <u>disability, payments pursuant to a pension or retirement program, and interest.</u>

- 261 (4) 'IV-D' means Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act.
- 262 (5) 'National Medical Support Notice' means a notice as prescribed under 42 U.S.C.
- Section 666(a)(19) or a substantially similar notice.
- 264 (6) 'Obligee' means the individual to whom the payment of a support obligation is owed.
- 265 (7) 'Obligor' means the individual owing a duty of support.
- 266 (8) 'Payor' means the person that provides earnings to an obligor.
- 267 (a)(b)(1) Except as provided for in paragraph (1) of subsection (a.1) (c) of this Code
- section, upon the entry of a judgment or order establishing, enforcing, or modifying a
- 269 child support obligation or spousal support obligation through a court or an administrative
- 270 process, a separate income deduction order for income deduction, if one has not been
- previously entered, shall be entered. If the obligee is an applicant for child support
- services under Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act, the court, referee, or
- 273 administrative law judge IV-D, the obligee shall furnish copies of the support order and
- 274 the income deduction order to the IV-D <u>child support enforcement</u> agency.
- 275 (2) For all child support orders, and spousal support orders enforced pursuant to
- subsection (d) of Code Section 19-11-6, the IV-D child support enforcement agency shall
- be authorized to issue an order for income deduction order without need for any
- amendment to the order involved or any further action by the court or entity a court that
- issued it, provided that an opportunity for a hearing before a court, a referee of the court,
- or an administrative law judge is afforded. The IV-D child support enforcement agency
- shall also be authorized to issue a National Medical Support Notice to enforce the
- medical support provisions of such orders, provided that an opportunity for a hearing
- pursuant to Code Section 19-11-27 is afforded. Such orders or notices may be issued
- 284 electronically by the IV-D <u>child support enforcement</u> agency. The IV-D <u>child support</u>
- 285 <u>enforcement</u> agency shall issue an order for income deduction <u>order</u> or, when appropriate,
- a National Medical Support Notice within two business days after the information
- regarding a newly hired employee is entered into the centralized employee registry
- pursuant to Code Section 19-11-9.2 and matched with an obligor in a case being enforced
- by the IV-D child support enforcement agency.
- 290 (3) All child support orders issued or modified before July 1, 1997, which are not
- 291 otherwise subject to income deduction shall become subject to income deduction upon
- the accrual of the equivalent of a 30 day arrearage, without the need for an administrative
- 293 or judicial hearing or order.
- $\frac{(a.1)(1)(c)(1)(A)}{(a.1)(a)}$ All child support orders which are initially issued in this state on or
- after January 1, 1994, and are not at the time of issuance being enforced by the IV-D
- 296 <u>child support enforcement</u> agency shall provide for the immediate withholding of such

support from the income and earnings of the person individual required by that order to furnish support unless:

- (A)(i) A The court issuing the order finds there is good cause not to require such immediate withholding; or
- 301 (B)(ii) A written agreement is reached between both parties which provides for an alternative arrangement.
- 303 (B) For purposes of this paragraph subsection, any finding that there is good cause not to require withholding must from earnings shall be based on at least a written determination that implementing wage such withholding would not be in the best interest of the child and proof of timely payment of previously ordered support in cases involving modification of support orders.
 - (2) All child support orders which are not described in subsection (a) (b) of this Code section or in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall, upon petition of either party to revise that such order under Code Section 19-6-19 or to enforce that such order under Code Section 19-6-28, be revised to include provisions for withholding of such support from the wages earnings of the person individual required by the order to furnish that such support if arrearages equal to one month's support accrue but without the necessity of filing application for services under Code Section 19-11-6.
- 315 (3) Copies of income deduction orders issued under this subsection shall be served on the obligee, obligor, and the child support IV-D agency provided by the obligee to the obligor, payor, and the family support registry established pursuant to Code Section 19-6-33.1.
- 319 (b)(d) An The income deduction order shall:

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- 320 (1) Direct a payor to deduct from all income earnings due and payable to an obligor the 321 amount required by the support order to meet the obligor's support obligation;
- 322 (2) State the amount of arrearage accrued, if any, under the support order and direct a payor to withhold an additional amount until the arrearage is paid in full;
- (3) Direct a payor not to deduct in excess of the amounts allowed under Section 303(b)
 of the federal Consumer Credit Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. Section 1673(b), as amended;
 and
- 327 (4) Direct the payor to send income deduction payment order payments, including 328 administrative fees authorized by law, to the family support registry as provided for in established pursuant to Code Section 19-6-33.1.
- 330 (c)(e) Income deduction orders shall be effective immediately unless the a court upon good 331 cause shown finds that the income deduction <u>order</u> shall be effective upon a delinquency 332 in an amount equal to one month's support or a written agreement is reached between both 333 parties which provides for an alternative arrangement.

334 (d)(f) An The income deduction order shall be effective so long as the order of support

- upon which it is based is effective or until further order of the <u>a</u> court.
- 336 (e)(g) When the court orders the an income deduction to order shall be effective
- immediately, the court obligee or child support enforcement agency, as applicable, shall
- furnish to the obligor a statement of his or her rights, remedies, and duties in regard to the
- income deduction order. The statement shall state:
- (1) All fees or interest which shall be imposed;
- 341 (2) The total amount of income earnings to be deducted for each pay period until the
- arrearage, if any, is paid in full and state the total amount of income earnings to be
- deducted for each pay period thereafter. The amounts deducted may shall not be in
- excess of that allowed under Section 303(b) of the federal Consumer Credit Protection
- Act, 15 U.S.C. Section 1673(b), as amended;
- 346 (3) When the withholding will commence;
- 347 (3)(4) That the income deduction applies order shall apply to current and subsequent
- payors and periods of employment;
- 349 (4)(5) That a copy of the income deduction order will be served on the obligor's payor
- or shall be provided to the payors;
- 351 $\frac{(5)(6)}{(5)}$ That the enforcement of the income deduction order may only be contested on the
- ground of mistake of fact regarding the amount of support owed pursuant to a support
- order, the arrearages, or the identity of the obligor; and
- 354 (7) How to contest the withholding; and
- 355 $\frac{(6)(8)}{(8)}$ That the obligor is required to notify the obligee and, when the obligee is receiving
- 356 Title IV-D services, the IV-D child support enforcement agency, within seven days of
- changes in the obligor's address and payors and the addresses of his or her payors.
- 358 (f)(h) When the an income deduction order is effective upon a delinquency in an amount
- equal to one month's support, or when an order for spousal or child support was in effect
- prior to July 1, 1989, the obligee or child support enforcement agency, as applicable, may
- enforce the income deduction <u>order</u> by <u>serving providing a</u> notice of delinquency on <u>to</u> the
- obligor. A The notice of delinquency shall state:
- 363 (1) The terms of the support order;
- 364 (2) The period of delinquency and the total amount of the delinquency as of the date the
- 365 notice is mailed;
- 366 (3) All fees or interest which may be imposed;
- 367 (4) The total amount of income earnings to be deducted for each pay period until the
- arrearage and all applicable fees and interest are paid in full and the total amount of
- 369 <u>income earnings</u> to be deducted for each pay period thereafter. The amounts deducted

370 may shall not be in excess of that allowed under Section 303(b) of the federal Consumer

- Credit Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. Section 1673(b), as amended;
- 372 (5) That a copy of the notice of delinquency will be served on the obligor's payor or shall
- be provided to the payors, together with a copy of the income deduction order. The
- obligor may apply to the \underline{a} court to contest enforcement of the order once the notice of
- delinquency has been served received. The application shall not affect the enforcement
- of the income deduction order until the a court enters an order granting relief to the
- 377 obligor;
- 378 (6) That the enforcement of the income deduction order may only be contested on the
- ground of mistake of fact regarding the amount of support owed pursuant to a support
- order, the arrearages, or the identity of the obligor; and
- 381 (7) That the obligor is required to notify the obligee of the obligor's current address and
- current payors and the address of current payors. All changes shall be reported by the
- obligor within seven days of the change occurring. If the IV-D child support enforcement
- agency is enforcing the such order, the obligor shall make these notifications to the child
- 385 <u>support enforcement</u> agency instead of to the obligee.
- 386 (i) The failure of the obligor to receive the notice of delinquency does not preclude
- 387 subsequent service of provided for in subsection (h) of this Code section shall not preclude
- 388 the income deduction order on the obligor's being subsequently provided to the payor. A
- notice of delinquency which fails to state an arrearage does shall not mean that an arrearage
- is not owed.
- 391 (g)(j) At any time, any party, including the IV-D child support enforcement agency, may
- apply to the court, referee of the court, or administrative law judge a court to:
- 393 (1) Modify, suspend, or terminate the order for income deduction order because of a
- modification, suspension, or termination of the underlying order for support; or
- 395 (2) Modify the amount of income deducted earnings being withheld when the arrearage
- 396 has been paid."
- **SECTION 1-14.**
- 398 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 19-6-33, relating to the notice and
- 399 service of income deduction order, as follows:
- 400 "19-6-33.
- 401 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:
- 402 (1) 'Child support enforcement agency' means the entity within the Department of
- Human Services and its contractors that are authorized to enforce a duty of support.
- 404 (2) 'Court' means judge of any court of record or an administrative law judge of the
- 405 Office of State Administrative Hearings.

(3) 'Earnings' means any form of payment due to an individual, regardless of source,
including without limitation wages, salary, commission, bonus, workers' compensation,
disability, payments pursuant to a pension or retirement program, and interest.
(4) 'IV-D' means Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act.
(5) 'Obligee' means the individual to whom the payment of a support obligation is owed.
(6) 'Obligor' means the individual owing a duty of support.

412 (7) 'Payor' means the person that provides earnings to an obligor.

(a)(b) The obligee or his or her agent shall serve shall provide an income deduction order and the notice to the payor, and in the case of a delinquency, a notice of delinquency, on the obligor's to the payor. The obligor must be notified that withholding has commenced and how to contest the withholding. The obligee or child support enforcement agency, as applicable, shall provide the notice to payor as set forth in subsection (f) of this Code section.

(b)(c) Service of the initial income deduction order by or upon any person who is a party to a proceeding under this Code section shall be by personal service, by certified mail or statutory overnight delivery, return receipt requested, or by regular mail by statutory overnight delivery, or by first-class mail; such order may be served electronically if permitted under Code Section 9-11-5. Service upon an obligor's a payor or successor payor under this Code section shall be by regular first-class mail, or such order may be served electronically if permitted under Code Section 9-11-5.

(c)(d)(1) When the <u>an</u> income deduction <u>order</u> is effective upon a delinquency in an amount equal to one month's support, the obligor may apply to the <u>a</u> court to contest the enforcement of the income deduction order on the ground of mistake of fact regarding the amount of support owed pursuant to a support order, the amount of arrearage of support, or the identity of the obligor. The obligor shall send a copy of the <u>his or her</u> pleading to the obligee and, if the obligee is receiving IV-D services, to the IV-D <u>child support</u> <u>enforcement</u> agency. The filing of the <u>such</u> pleading does <u>shall</u> not affect the enforcement of an income deduction order unless the <u>a</u> court enters an order granting relief to the obligor. The payment of delinquent support by an obligor upon entry of an income deduction order shall not preclude service of the income deduction on order being <u>provided to</u> the obligor's payor.

(2) When an obligor requests a hearing to contest enforcement of an income deduction order, the court, referee, or administrative law judge a court, after due notice to all parties and the IV-D child support enforcement agency, if the obligee is receiving IV-D services, shall hear the matter within 30 days after the application is filed and shall not extend the time for hearing unless good cause for a later date is found by the a court, in which event the time for a hearing may be extended for up to 30 days. A court The court, referee, or

administrative law judge shall enter an order resolving the matter within ten days after the hearing. A copy of this order shall be served on and provide such order to the parties and the IV-D agency child support enforcement agency, if the obligee is receiving IV-D services.

- (d)(e) When a court, court referee, or administrative law judge determines that an income deduction order is proper pursuant to subsection (c) (d) of this Code section, the obligee or his or her agent shall cause a copy of the income deduction order and a notice to payor, and in the case of a delinquency, a notice of delinquency, to be served on the obligee's payors provided to the payor. The obligee or child support enforcement agency, as applicable, shall provide the notice to payor as set forth in subsection (f) of this Code section. A copy of the notice to the payor, and in the case of a delinquency, a notice of delinquency, shall also be furnished provided to the obligor by the obligee or child support enforcement agency, as applicable.
- 456 (e)(f) A The notice to payor shall contain only information necessary for the payor to comply with the income deduction order. The payor shall have the duties, penalties, and rights specified in the such notice. The notice to payor shall:
 - (1) Require the payor to deduct from the obligor's income earnings the amount specified in the income deduction order, and in the case of a delinquency the amount specified in the notice of delinquency, and to pay that such amount to the obligee or to a child support receiver, the IV-D agency, or other designee, as appropriate family support registry established pursuant to Code Section 19-6-33.1. The amount actually deducted plus all administrative charges shall not be in excess of the amount allowed under Section 303(b) of the federal Consumer Credit Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. Section 1673(b);
 - (2) Instruct the payor to implement the income deduction order no later than the first pay period that occurs after 14 days following the date the notice was mailed;
 - (3) Instruct the payor to forward, within two business days after each payment date, to the family support registry the amount deducted from the obligor's income earnings and a statement as to whether that such amount totally or partially satisfies the periodic amount specified in the income deduction order;
- 472 (4) Specify that if a payor willfully fails to deduct the proper amount from the obligor's 473 income earnings, the payor is shall be liable for the amount the payor should have 474 deducted, plus costs, interest, and reasonable attorney's fees;
 - (5) Provide that the payor may collect up to \$25.00 against the obligor's income earnings to reimburse the payor for administrative costs for the first income deduction pursuant to an payment of an income deduction order and up to \$3.00 for each deduction thereafter subsequent payment. The payor of income may shall not deduct a fee for complying with any order or notice for enrollment in a health benefit plan;

480 (6) State that the income deduction order and the notice to payor, and in the case of a delinquency, the notice of delinquency, are binding on the payor until further:

- (A) Further notice by the obligee, IV-D agency, or the court or until the child support agency, or court; or
- (B) The payor no longer provides income earnings to the obligor;

- (7) Instruct the payor that, when the payor no longer provides income earnings to the obligor, the payor shall notify the obligee and shall also provide the obligor's last known address and the name and address of the obligor's new payor, if known, and that, if the payor willfully violates this provision paragraph, the payor is shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$250.00 for the first violation or and \$500.00 for any subsequent violation. If the IV-D child support enforcement agency is enforcing the income deduction order, the payor shall make these such notifications to the IV-D child support enforcement agency instead of to the obligee. Penalties shall be paid to the obligee or the IV-D child support enforcement agency, whichever is enforcing the income deduction order;
- (8) State that no payor may discharge an obligor by reason of the fact that income has earnings have been subjected to an income deduction order under Code Section 19-6-32 and that a violation of this provision subjects paragraph shall subject the payor to a civil penalty not to exceed \$250.00 for the first violation or and \$500.00 for a any subsequent violation. Penalties shall be paid to the obligee or the IV-D child support enforcement agency, whichever is enforcing the income deduction order, if any support is owing. If no support is owing, the penalty shall be paid to the obligor;
 - (9) Inform the payor that the income deduction order has priority over all other legal processes under state law pertaining to the same income earnings and that payment, as required by the income deduction order, is a complete defense by the payor against any claims of the obligor or his <u>or her</u> creditors as to the sum paid;
 - (10) Inform the payor that if the payor receives income deduction orders requiring that the income earnings of two or more obligors be deducted and sent to the same depository, he the payor may combine the amounts paid to the depository in a single payment as so long as he the payor identifies that portion of the payment attributable to each obligor;
 - (11) Inform the payor that if the payor receives <u>may receive</u> more than one income deduction order against the same obligor, he shall contact the court for further instructions. Upon being so contacted, the court shall allocate amounts available for income deduction giving <u>and shall give</u> priority to current child support obligations up to the limits imposed under Section 303(b) of the federal Consumer Credit Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. Section 1673(b).

517 (f)(g) At any time an income deduction order is being enforced, the obligor may apply to 518 the <u>a</u> court for a hearing to contest the continued enforcement of the income deduction 519 order on the same grounds set out in subsection (c) (d) of this Code section, with a and 520 provide a copy of the pleading requesting such hearing to the obligee and, in IV-D cases, 521 to the IV-D child support enforcement agency. Such The application does shall not affect 522 the continued enforcement of the income deduction order until the <u>a</u> court enters an order 523 granting relief to the obligor. The obligee of the IV-D agency is released from liability 524 may be liable for improper receipt of moneys pursuant to an income deduction order upon 525 return to the appropriate party of any moneys received. 526 (g)(h) An obligee, or his an obligee's agent, shall enforce income deduction orders against 527 an obligor's successor payor who is located in this state in the same manner prescribed in this Code section for the enforcement of an income deduction order against a payor. 528 529 (h)(i) The provisions of Article 3 of Chapter 11 of this title, the 'Uniform Interstate Family 530 Support Act,' shall apply to all to: 531 (1) All income deduction orders originating in this state and directed to another state. 532 In addition, the provisions of Article 3 of Chapter 11 of this title, the 'Uniform Interstate 533 Family Support Act,' apply to all income withholding; and 534 (2) All income-withholding orders originating in another state and directed to this state. 535 (i)(j) Certified copies of payment records maintained by a child support receiver or the 536 IV-D child support enforcement agency shall, without further proof, be admitted into 537 evidence in any legal proceeding in this state. 538 (i)(k) No payor shall discharge an obligor by reason of the fact that income has his or her 539 earnings have been subjected to an income deduction order under Code Section 19-6-32. 540 A payor who violates this paragraph is <u>subsection shall be</u> subject to a civil penalty not to 541 exceed \$250.00 for the first violation or and \$500.00 for any subsequent violation. 542 Penalties shall be paid to the obligee or the IV-D child support enforcement agency, 543 whichever is enforcing the income deduction order, if any support is owing. If no support 544 is owing, the penalty shall be paid to the obligor. 545 (k)(1) When If a payor is not providing earnings to an obligor or when a payor no longer provides income earnings to an obligor, he the payor shall notify the obligee and, if the 546 obligee is an IV-D applicant, the IV-D agency and support order is being enforced by the 547 548 child support enforcement agency, the child support enforcement agency shall provide the 549 obligor's last known address and the name and address of the obligor's new payor, if 550 known. A payor who willfully violates this subsection is shall be subject to a civil penalty 551 not to exceed \$250.00 for the first violation or and \$500.00 for a any subsequent violation. 552 Penalties shall be paid to the obligee or the IV-D child support enforcement agency, 553 whichever is enforcing the income deduction order."

SECTION 1-15.

Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 19-6-33.1, relating to the family

- support registry, as follows:
- 557 "19-6-33.1.
- 558 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:
- (1) 'Child support enforcement agency' means the Child Support Enforcement Agency
- of the entity within the Department of Human Services and its contractors that are
- authorized to enforce a duty of support.
- 562 (2) 'Family support registry' means a central registry maintained and operated pursuant
- 563 to subsection (c) of this Code section, which receives, processes, disburses, and maintains
- a record of the payment of child support, child support when combined with spousal
- support, child support arrears, or child support debt made pursuant to court or
- 566 administrative order.
- 567 (2) 'Earnings' means any form of payment due to an individual, regardless of source,
- including without limitation wages, salary, commission, bonus, workers' compensation,
- disability, payments pursuant to a pension or retirement program, and interest.
- 570 (3) 'Income deduction order' means any income deduction an order which is made
- pursuant to Code Section 19-6-32 and which becomes effective upon a delinquency
- which occurred on or after January 1, 1994, or which became effective immediately
- without a delinquency on or after January 1, 1994.
- 574 (4) 'IV-D' means Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act.
- 575 (5) 'Obligee' means the individual to whom the payment of a support obligation is owed.
- 576 (6) 'Obligor' means the individual owing a duty of support.
- 577 (7) 'Payor' means the person that provides earnings to an obligor.
- 578 (b) Any term used in this Code section and defined in Code Section 19-6-31 shall have the
- 579 meaning provided for such term in Code Section 19-6-31.
- 580 (c)(b) There As required by federal law, there shall be established and operated a family
- support registry pursuant to IV-D regulations, and authority and funding shall be provided
- to the child support enforcement agency for the operation of such registry. The child
- support enforcement agency is shall be authorized to establish and maintain or contract for
- the establishment and maintenance of the family support registry. The family support This
- registry shall be used for the collection and processing of payments for support orders in
- all cases which are enforced by the child support enforcement agency and for all other
- support orders not being enforced by the child support enforcement agency which are
- subject to <u>an</u> income deduction order as defined by paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of this
- 589 Code section.

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(d)(c) The child support <u>enforcement</u> agency shall, as required by federal law, redirect payments for support orders in all cases being enforced by the child support <u>enforcement</u> agency and for all other support orders not being enforced by the child support <u>enforcement</u> agency which are subject to an income deduction order as <u>defined</u> by <u>paragraph</u> (3) of <u>subsection</u> (a) of this Code section. These support. Such payments for support orders <u>being paid</u> to a court <u>or</u>, <u>child support</u> receiver, or private party by <u>an employer a payor</u> shall be redirected to the family support registry.

- 597 (e)(d) In implementing the family support registry, the child support enforcement agency
 598 is shall be authorized to:
- (1) Receive, process, and disburse payments for child support, child support when combined with spousal support, child support arrears, or child support debt for any court or administrative order;
- 602 (2) Maintain records of any payments collected, processed, and disbursed through the family support registry;
- 604 (3) Establish and maintain a separate record for payments made through the <u>family</u> 605 <u>support</u> registry as a result of a judgment remedy;
- (4) Answer inquiries from any parent concerning payments processed through the family
 support registry; and
- 608 (5) Collect a fee for the processing of insufficient funds checks and issue a notice to the 609 originator of any insufficient funds check that no further checks will shall be accepted 610 from such person and that future payments shall be required to be paid by cash or 611 certified funds.
 - (f) On or after April 1, 1999, the child support enforcement agency shall begin implementing the family support registry. The commissioner of the department or the commissioner's designee shall notify the court administrator and the chief judge of each judicial circuit when new income deduction orders are to be directed to the family support registry.
- 617 (g)(e) The Upon implementation of the family support registry in any county or judicial 618 circuit, the following procedures shall be followed in such county or circuit:
- (1) All administrative orders and all court orders entered or modified which provide for
 income deduction orders for support payments for child support, child support when
 combined with spousal support, child support arrears, or child support debt shall require
 that such payments be made through the family support registry; and
- 623 (2) The child support enforcement agency shall send or cause to be sent a notice by
 624 first-class mail directing that all income deduction order payments shall be made to the
 625 family support registry. Orders subject to this redirection include: all support orders
 626 being enforced by the child support enforcement agency and all other orders not being

enforced by the child support <u>enforcement</u> agency which are subject to an income deduction order as defined in paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of this Code section. The notice shall be sent to the following persons:

- (A) Any obligor who is obligated to make payments for support, child support when combined with spousal support, child support arrears; or child support debt under court order or administrative order in a IV-D case where when the order does not already specify paying through the family support registry; and
- (B) Any employer or other payor of funds who payor that has been deducting income under Code Section 19-6-32.
- (h)(f) Any obligor or employer who payor that receives a notice to redirect payments as specified in subsection (g) (e) of this Code section who that fails to make the payments to the family support registry and who continues to make payments to the court or to the IV-D agency obligee shall be sent a second notice to redirect payments. The second notice shall be sent by certified mail or statutory overnight delivery, return receipt requested or by statutory overnight delivery. Such notice shall contain all the information required to be included in the first notice to redirect payments and shall further state that the obligor or employer payor has failed to make the payments to the correct child support enforcement agency and that the payor or obligor or payor shall redirect the payments to the family support registry at the address indicated in the notice. Failure to make payments to the family support registry after a second notice shall be grounds for contempt.
 - (i)(g)(1) Any payment required to be made to the family support registry which is received by the court, child support receiver, obligee, or child support enforcement agency shall be forwarded to the family support registry within two business days after receipt. All income deduction order payments from employers payors or such payments forwarded by the court, child support receiver, obligee, or child support enforcement agency shall be identified with the information specified by the family support registry, including but not limited to the court case number, social security number of the obligor, the county where the case originated, and the name of the obligor. A copy of the notice to redirect payments described in subsection (g) of this Code section shall be mailed to the obligee and the court.
 - (2) Except as provided by federal law, the family support registry shall distribute all support amounts payable within two business days after receipt from the employer or other payment source payor.
- 660 (j)(h) The department Department of Human Services shall coordinate the operation of the 661 family support registry with the state case registry created under Code Section 19-11-39 662 so as to reduce if not eliminate the need for duplicate reporting and information recording. 663 The department is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the courts of the

664 judicial circuits in order to implement the family support registry. The department

- Department of Human Services shall be authorized to establish and collect an
- administrative fee from the income deduction order obligor or other obligor paying
- 667 <u>individual owing a duty of</u> support through the family support registry an administrative
- 668 fee. The fee shall not exceed \$2.00. Such administrative fee shall be the lesser of:
- 669 (1) Two dollars per payment or 5;
- 670 (2) Five percent of the amount of each payment; or
- 671 (3) The the actual cost of processing and distributing the child support from the source
- to the obligee, whichever is the lesser.
- 673 (k)(i) Nothing in this Code section shall allow or require any reduction of child support
- payments paid owed to any parent or guardian of a minor child."
- 675 **SECTION 1-16.**
- 676 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 19-11-3, relating to definitions relative
- 677 to the "Child Support Recovery Act," as follows:
- 678 "19-11-3.
- As used in this article, the term:
- (1) 'Account' means a demand deposit account, checking or negotiable order of
- withdrawal account, savings account, time deposit account, or a money market mutual
- fund account.
- 683 (2) 'Child support enforcement agency' means the entity within the department and its
- 684 <u>contractors that are authorized to enforce a duty of support.</u>
- 685 (2)(3) 'Court order for child support' means any order for child support issued by a court
- or administrative or quasi-judicial entity of this state or another state, including an order
- in a criminal proceeding which results in the payment of child support as a condition of
- probation or otherwise. Such order shall be deemed to be a IV-D order for purposes of
- this article when either party to the order submits a copy of the order for support and a
- signed application to the department for IV-D services, when the right to child support
- has been assigned to the department pursuant to subsection (a) of Code Section 19-11-6,
- or upon registration of a foreign order pursuant to Article 3 of this chapter.
- 693 (3)(4) 'Department' means the Department of Human Services.
- 694 (4)(5) 'Dependent child' means any person individual under the age of 18 who is not
- otherwise emancipated, self-supporting, married, or a member of the armed forces of the
- 696 United States.
- 697 (5)(6) 'Duty of support' means any duty of support imposed or imposable by law or by
- 698 court order, decree, or judgment.

699 (6)(7) 'Financial institution' means every federal or state chartered commercial or savings

- bank, including savings and loan associations and cooperative banks, federal or state
- chartered credit unions, benefit associations, insurance companies, safe-deposit
- companies, trust companies, and any money market mutual fund.
- 703 (7)(8) 'IV-D' means Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act.
- 704 (8) 'IV-D agency' means the Child Support Enforcement Agency of the Department of
- 705 Human Services and its contractors.
- 706 (9) 'Medical insurance obligee' means any person to whom a duty of medical support is
- owed.
- 708 (10) 'Medical insurance obligor' means any person owing a duty of medical support.
- 709 (11) 'Money market mutual fund' means every regulated investment company within the
- meaning of Section 851(a) of the Internal Revenue Code which seeks to maintain a
- 711 constant net asset value of \$1.00 in accordance with 17 C.F.R. Section 270.2A-7.
- 712 (12) 'Obligee' means the individual to whom the payment of a support obligation is
- 713 <u>owed.</u>
- 714 (13) 'Obligor' means the individual owing a duty of support.
- 715 $\frac{(12)(14)}{(14)}$ 'Parent' means the natural or adoptive parents of a child and includes the father
- of a child born out of wedlock if his paternity has been established in a judicial
- proceeding or if he has acknowledged paternity under oath either in open court, in an
- administrative hearing, or by verified writing.
- 719 (13)(15) 'TANF' means temporary assistance for needy families."
- 720 **SECTION 1-17.**
- 721 Said title is further amended by revising subsections (f) and (g) of Code Section 19-11-6,
- 722 relating to enforcement of child support payments and alimony for public assistance
- 723 recipients, as follows:
- 724 "(f) The department shall be authorized to charge the obligee a federal Deficit Reduction
- Act of 2005 fee of \$12.00 to be paid at the rate of \$1.00 per month after the IV-D child
- 326 support enforcement agency has collected \$500.00 of child support annually for each case.
- 727 The department shall retain such fee and deduct such fee from child support collections
- before disbursement to the obligee. Such fee shall only apply to an obligee who has never
- received public assistance payments pursuant to Title IV-A or Title IV-E of the federal
- 730 Social Security Act.
- 731 (g) The department shall be authorized to charge the obligor a federal Deficit Reduction
- Act of 2005 fee of \$13.00 to be paid in 12 monthly installments after the IV-D child
- support enforcement agency has collected \$500.00 of child support annually for each case.
- Such fee shall only apply to an obligor when the obligee has never received public

assistance payments pursuant to Title IV-A or Title IV-E of the federal Social Security Act.

- The department shall retain such fee and collect such fee through income withholding, as
- well as by any other enforcement remedy available to the IV-D agency responsible for
- 738 child support enforcement <u>agency</u>."

739 **SECTION 1-18.**

- 740 Said title is further amended by revising subsections (e) and (f) of Code Section 19-11-8,
- relating to the department's duty to enforce support of abandoned minor public assistance
- 742 recipient, as follows:
- 743 "(e) The department shall be authorized to charge the obligee a federal Deficit Reduction
- Act of 2005 fee of \$12.00 to be paid at the rate of \$1.00 per month after the IV-D <u>child</u>
- support enforcement agency has collected \$500.00 of child support annually for each case.
- The department shall retain such fee and deduct such fee from child support collections
- before disbursement to the obligee. Such fee shall only apply to an obligee who has never
- received public assistance payments pursuant to Title IV-A or Title IV-E of the federal
- Social Security Act.
- 750 (f) The department shall be authorized to charge the obligor a federal Deficit Reduction
- Act of 2005 fee of \$13.00 to be paid in 12 monthly installments after the IV-D child
- 352 support enforcement agency has collected \$500.00 of child support annually for each case.
- Such fee shall only apply to an obligor when the obligee has never received public
- assistance payments pursuant to Title IV-A or Title IV-E of the federal Social Security Act.
- 755 The department shall retain such fee and collect such fee through income withholding, as
- well as by any other enforcement remedy available to the IV-D agency responsible for
- 757 child support enforcement <u>agency</u>."

758 **SECTION 1-19.**

- 759 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 19-11-9.3, relating to suspension or
- 760 denial of license for noncompliance with child support order, as follows:
- 761 "19-11-9.3.
- 762 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:
- (1) 'Agency' means the agency entity within the Department of Human Services which
- is responsible for enforcing orders for child support pursuant to this article.
- 765 (2) 'Applicant' means any person individual applying for issuance or renewal of a license.
- 766 (3) 'Certified list' means a list provided by the agency of the names of support delinquent
- obligors found to be not in compliance with an order for child support in a case being
- 768 enforced under this article.

(4) 'Compliance with an order for child support' means, as set forth in a court order, administrative order, or contempt order for child support, the obligor is not more than 60 calendar days in arrears in making payments in full for current support, periodic payments on a support arrearage, or periodic payments on a reimbursement for public

- assistance.
- (5) 'Delinquent obligor' means any obligor individual owing a duty of support who is not
- in compliance with an order for child support and who appears on the agency's certified
- 776 list.

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- 777 (6) 'Department' means the Department of Human Services.
- 778 (7) 'License' means a certificate, permit, registration, or any other authorization issued
- by any licensing entity that allows a person an individual to operate a motor vehicle or
- to engage in a profession, business, or occupation.
- 781 (8) 'Licensee' means any person individual holding a license.
- 782 (9) 'Licensing entity' means any state agency, department, or board of this state which
- issues or renews any license, certificate, permit, or registration to authorize a person to
- drive a motor vehicle, or to engage in a profession, business, or occupation including
- 785 those under Article 3 of Chapter 7 of Title 2, the 'Georgia Pesticide Use and Application
- Act of 1976'; Article 13 of Chapter 1 of Title 7, relating to mortgage lenders and
- 787 mortgage brokers; Chapter 5 of Title 10, the 'Georgia Uniform Securities Act of 2008,'
- 788 relating to securities salespersons and investment adviser representatives; Part 2 of
- 789 Article 1 of Chapter 6 of Title 12, relating to foresters; Chapter 4 of Title 26, relating to
- 790 pharmacists; Chapter 23 of Title 33, relating to insurance agents, counselors, and other
- 791 personnel; Chapter 1 of Title 43, relating to professions and businesses; Chapter 39A of
- 792 Title 43, relating to real estate appraisers; or Chapter 40 of Title 43, relating to real estate
- 793 brokers and salespersons.
- 794 (b) The agency shall maintain a state-wide certified list of those persons included in any
- 795 case enforced under this article for whom an order for child support has been rendered and
- who are not in compliance with that such order. Such The certified list must be updated
- on a monthly basis shall be regularly updated. The agency shall submit to each licensing
- entity a certified list with the name, social security number, if known, date of birth, and last
- known address of each person individual on the list.
- 800 (c) On or before January 1, 1997, all All licensing entities shall implement procedures to
- accept and process the <u>certified</u> list provided by the agency in accordance with this Code
- 802 section.
- 803 (d) Promptly after receiving the certified list from the agency, all licensing entities shall
- determine whether an applicant or licensee is on the most recent certified list. If an
- applicant or licensee is on the certified list, the licensing entity shall immediately notify the

agency. <u>Such</u> That notification shall include the applicant's or licensee's last known mailing address on file with the licensing entity.

- (e) After receiving notice from a licensing entity of applicants or licensees who are on the certified list, the agency shall immediately notify those individuals as specified in subsection (f) of this Code section of the agency's intent to request that all pertinent licensing entities suspend all licenses or withhold issuance or renewal of any license.
- (f) Notice for purposes of this Code section shall be initiated by the department. Notice to the delinquent obligor shall include the address and telephone number of the agency and shall inform the delinquent obligor of the agency's intent to submit the <u>delinquent</u> obligor's name to relevant licensing entities and to request that the licensing entities withhold issuance or renewal of the license, or suspend the license. Notice shall be sent by first-class mail and receipt by the delinquent obligor may be presumed if the mailing is not returned to the department within 30 days from the date of mailing. The notice <u>must shall</u> also inform the delinquent obligor of the following that:
- (1) The delinquent obligor has 20 days from the date of mailing to come into compliance with the order or to reach an agreement to pay the delinquency with the agency. If an agreement cannot be reached within that time or if the delinquent obligor does not respond within that time, the agency will shall send notice to the licensing entities requesting that the licenses be suspended or the licensure applications be denied;
- that hearing under subsection (g) of this Code section. A request for a hearing must shall be made in writing and must shall be received by the agency within 20 days of service of notice; and
 - (3) If the delinquent obligor requests a hearing within 20 days of service, the department shall stay all action pending the hearing and any appeals.
 - (g) If no response is received from the delinquent obligor by the department within 30 days from the date of mailing of the notice and the delinquent obligor is still shown as delinquent on the next month's <u>certified</u> list <u>prepared pursuant to subsection</u> (b) of this Code section, the department shall request one or more licensing entities to deny or suspend a license of the delinquent obligor. Each licensing entity shall notify the delinquent obligor by certified mail or statutory overnight delivery of the date that the license has been denied or suspended.
 - (h)(1) All delinquent obligors subject to the sanctions imposed in this Code section shall have the right to a hearing before an administrative law judge of the Office of State Administrative Hearings pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 13 of Title 50. A delinquent obligor who requests a hearing within the time prescribed in subsection (f) of this Code section shall have the right to a hearing. The hearing shall be conducted as provided in

Article 2 of Chapter 13 of Title 50 within 45 days after such demand is received. The only issues at the hearing will be the following shall be:

- (1)(A) Whether there is an order for child support being enforced pursuant to this article;
- 847 (2)(B) Whether the licensee or applicant is the obligor covered by that order;

- 848 (3)(C) Whether the support obligor is or is not in compliance with the order for child support;
- 850 (4)(D) Whether the support obligor shall be entitled to pay past due child support in periodic payments; and
- 852 (5)(E) Whether the support obligor has been able and willing to comply with such order for support.
 - (2) With respect to the issues listed in <u>paragraph (1) of</u> this subsection, evidence relating to the ability and willingness of an obligor to comply with such order for support shall be considered in making the decision to either suspend a license or deny the issuance or renewal of a license under this Code section. The administrative law judge shall be authorized to enter into an agreement or enter an order requiring such periodic payments and, in each event, the administrative law judge shall be authorized to issue a release for the obligor to obtain each license or licenses. Such an agreement will shall not act to modify an existing child support order, but rather shall affect only affects the payment of the arrearage.
 - (i) The decision at the hearing shall be subject to appeal and judicial review pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 13 of Title 50 but only as to those issues referred to in subsection (h) of this Code section. Notwithstanding any hearing requirements for suspension and denials within each licensing entity, the hearing and appeal procedures outlined in this Code section shall be the only hearing required to suspend a license or deny the issuance or renewal of a license under this Code section.
 - (j) The department shall prescribe release forms for use by the agency. When the obligor is determined to be in compliance with an order for child support or is determined to be not in compliance with such order but has been determined in a hearing pursuant to subsection (h) of this Code section to be unable to comply with the order or to be not willfully out of compliance with such order, the agency shall mail to the delinquent obligor and the appropriate licensing entity a notice of release stating such determination. The receipt of a notice of release shall serve to notify the delinquent obligor and the licensing entity that, for the purpose of this Code section, he or she is in compliance with an order for child support, and the licensing entity shall promptly thereafter issue or reinstate the license, unless the agency, pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code section, certifies subsequent to

the issuance of a notice of release that the delinquent obligor is once again not in compliance with an order for child support.

- (k) Any payments received by the department on behalf of a child support recipient under this Code section shall be forwarded to such recipient within 15 days after any such
- payment is received by the department.
- 884 (1) The department may enter into interagency agreements with state agencies that have
- responsibility for the administration of licensing entities as necessary to implement this
- 886 Code section. Those agreements shall provide for the receipt by other state agencies and
- boards of federal funds to cover that portion of costs allowable under federal law and
- regulation and incurred by state agencies and boards in implementing this Code section.
- 889 (m) In furtherance of the public policy of increasing child support enforcement and
- 890 collections, on or before January 1, 1998, the department shall make a report to the General
- Assembly and the Governor based on data collected by the boards and the department in
- a format prescribed by the department. The report shall contain all of the following:
- (1) The number of delinquent obligors certified by the agency under this Code section;
- 894 (2) The number of delinquent obligors who also were applicants for issuance or renewal
- of a license or licensees subject to this Code section;
- 896 (3) The number of new licenses and renewals that were denied subject to this Code
- section and the number of new licenses issued and renewals granted following a licensing
- 898 entity's receipt of releases;
- (4) The number of licenses suspended subject to this Code section, and the number of
- 900 licenses reissued following the licensing entity's receipt of releases; and
- 901 (5) The amount of revenue collected by the department after sending notices pursuant
- 902 to this Code section.
- 903 (n)(m) Any licensing entity receiving an inquiry as to the license status of an applicant
- who has had an application for issuance or renewal of a license denied under this Code
- section shall respond only that the license was suspended or the licensure application was
- 906 denied pursuant to this Code section.
- 907 (o) The department shall, and the licensing entities as appropriate may, adopt regulations
- 908 necessary to implement this Code section.
- 909 (p)(n) The department shall inform delinquent obligors of resources available which may
- 910 remedy such delinquent obligor's license suspension.
- 911 (o) The department shall, and the licensing entities as appropriate may, adopt regulations
- 912 <u>necessary to implement this Code section."</u>

SECTION 1-20.

Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (4) of subsection (d) of Code Section 19-11-12, relating to review of orders for child support, as follows:

"(4)(A) In the case of an administrative order, the child support enforcement agency shall request the administrative law judge to increase or decrease the amount in the existing order in accordance with the such agency recommendation. If either the obligor or the obligee files with the child support enforcement agency written objections to the such agency's proposed child support order adjustment or determination of no change to the child support order within 33 days of the mailed notice, the matter shall be scheduled for an administrative hearing within the Office of State Administrative Hearings. The administrative order adjusting the child support award amount which results from a hearing or the failure to object to the child support enforcement agency's proposed adjustment or determination of no change shall, upon filing with the local clerk of the court, have the full effect of a modification of the original order or decree of support. As part of the order adjusting the child support award the administrative law judge shall issue an income and earnings deduction order which shall also be filed with the court pursuant to Code Sections 19-6-30 through 19-6-33 19-6-33.1.

(B) In the case of a judicial order, the <u>child support enforcement</u> agency shall file a petition asking the court to adopt the <u>such</u> agency's proposed adjustment or determination of no change to the child support order which shall be filed contemporaneously with the <u>such</u> agency's mailed notice and shall serve such petition upon the obligor and obligee in the manner provided in subsection (e) of Code Section 9-11-4. Upon the filing of a written objection to the <u>child support enforcement</u> agency's proposed adjustment or determination of no change with the clerk of the superior court and with the <u>such</u> agency, a de novo proceeding shall be scheduled with the court on the matter. If neither party files an objection within 30 days from the service of the petition, the court shall issue an order adopting the recommendation of the <u>IV-D child support enforcement</u> agency. As part of the order adjusting the child support award, the court shall issue an income and earnings deduction order pursuant to Code Sections 19-6-30 through 19-6-33 19-6-33.1."

SECTION 1-21.

945 Said title is further amended by revising subsections (a) and (c) of Code Section 19-11-15, 946 relating to voluntary support agreement, notice, and hearing, as follows:

"(a) When the department has completed its investigation, has determined the ability of the absent parent to support his or her child or children in accordance with guidelines

prescribed in Code Section 19-6-15, and believes that the absent parent is able to furnish a certain amount of support, the department may, as an exception to Code Section 9-12-18, request the absent parent to enter into a proposed consent order and income deduction order to provide the support amount and accident and sickness insurance coverage consistent with Code Section 19-11-26 prior to the filing of an action with the superior court. The orders may not be set aside on the grounds that the parties consented thereto prior to the filing of the action. An income deduction order shall issue consistent with Code Sections 19-6-30 through 19-6-34 19-6-33.1. If the department is unable to secure a proposed consent order from the parent, the department may file an action in superior court or may initiate an administrative action pursuant to Chapter 13 of Title 50, the 'Georgia Administrative Procedure Act.'"

"(c) The determination of the administrative law judge regarding the ability to provide support and the ability to provide accident and sickness insurance coverage shall be delivered to the absent parent personally or shall be sent by regular first-class mail. The final order shall include an order for income deduction order consistent with Code Sections 19-6-30 through 19-6-34 19-6-33.1, and shall inform the absent parent in plain language:

- (1) That failure to support may result in the foreclosure of liens on his or her personal or real property, in garnishment of his or her <u>wages earnings</u> or other personalty, or in other collection actions; and
- (2) That the absent parent has the right to appeal the determination within 30 days."

SECTION 1-22.

970 Said title is further amended by revising subsections (a) and (f) of Code Section 19-11-18, 971 relating to collection procedures, as follows:

"(a) The IV-D child support enforcement agency, in accordance with Title IV, Part D of the federal Social Security Act, is IV-D, shall be authorized to institute collection procedures for all arrearages which have accrued against child support payments owed pursuant to a judgment or support order of a court or an order from a IV-D agency of competent jurisdiction. <u>Such These</u> collection procedures shall include, but <u>shall</u> not be limited to, notification of employers that a wage assignment is in effect and not suspended; notification of obligors; demand letters; use of state and federal income tax refund intercept programs; initiation of contempt proceedings; the use of liens, levies, and seizures as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this Code section; the use of the services of any person providing collection services to the department; seeking warrants in appropriate situations; attachment or lien against property; civil actions to reach and apply; and any other civil or administrative remedy available for the enforcement of judgments or for the enforcement of support or custody orders."

"(f) <u>Unless otherwise provided by federal law, and notwithstanding</u> Notwithstanding any other provision of this title to the contrary, any child support being held by the <u>Child Support Enforcement Agency of the department child support enforcement agency</u> shall be paid to the custodial parent, legal guardian, or caretaker <u>relative</u> having custody of or responsibility for a child within two days from receipt of same by the enforcement agency by the child support enforcement agency of such child support."

SECTION 1-23.

992 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Code Section 993 19-11-30, relating to confidentiality of information and records, as follows:

"(2) The department shall provide to an attorney representing an <u>obligor</u>, to an attorney representing an obligee, or to a private child support collector, as defined in Code Section 10-1-392, <u>and</u> hired by an obligee and acting pursuant to a power of attorney signed by such obligee, any documents which such <u>obligor or</u> obligee would be entitled to request and receive from the <u>Child Support Enforcement Agency of the department child support enforcement agency</u>."

SECTION 1-24.

Said title is further amended by revising subsections (a) and (b) of Code Section 19-11-32, relating to the process to collect delinquent support accounts, as follows:

"(a) Notwithstanding other statutory provisions which provide for the execution, attachment, or levy against accounts, the IV-D agency, including its authorized contractors, child support enforcement agency may utilize the process established in this Code section and Code Sections 19-11-33 through 19-11-39 to collect delinquent support payments, provided that any exemptions or exceptions which specifically apply to enforcement of support obligations pursuant to other statutory provisions Code Section 18-4-6 shall also apply.

apply.

(b) An obligor is subject to the provisions of this Code section and Code Sections 19-11-33 through 19-11-39 if the obligor's support obligation is being enforced by the IV-D child support enforcement agency and if the support payments ordered pursuant to Georgia law or under a comparable statute of a foreign jurisdiction, as certified to the IV-D child support enforcement agency, are delinquent in an amount equal to the support payment for one month."

SECTION 1-25.

Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (d) and subsections (k) and (l) of Code Section 19-11-37, relating to challenges to levy and procedure, as follows:

"(1) If a mistake in identity has occurred or the obligor is not delinquent in an amount equal to the payment for one month, the IV-D <u>child support enforcement</u> agency shall notify the financial institution that the administrative levy has been released. The IV-D <u>child support enforcement</u> agency shall provide a copy of the notice <u>of release</u> to the support obligor by regular first-class mail; or"

- "(k) An order entered under this Code section for a levy against an account of a support an obligor has priority over a levy for a purpose other than the support of the dependents in the order being enforced.
- (1) The support obligor may withdraw the request for challenge by submitting a written withdrawal to the person individual identified as the contact for the IV-D child support enforcement agency in the notice, or the IV-D child support enforcement agency may withdraw the administrative levy at any time prior to the court hearing and provide notice of the withdrawal to the obligor and any account holder of interest and to the financial institution by regular first-class mail."

SECTION 1-26.

Said title is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 19-11-39, relating to computerized central case registry for support orders, as follows:

"(a) The department shall create by contract, cooperative agreement, or otherwise a computerized central case registry for all support orders entered by any court or administrative tribunal of this state. All IV-D agency orders support orders obtained by the child support enforcement agency as well as those support orders not within the IV-D child support enforcement agency shall be registered in this such data base. The department may enter into a cooperative agreement with the Administrative Office of the Courts so as to obtain information needed to create and maintain the state registry of support orders as required by federal law."

SECTION 1-27.

Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (10) of Code Section 19-11-101, relating to definitions for the "Uniform Interstate Family Support Act," as follows:

"(10) 'Income-withholding order' means an order or other legal process directed to an obligor's employer or other debtor, pursuant to Code Sections 19-6-31 through 19-6-32 and 19-6-33, to withhold support from the income of the obligor."

SECTION 1-28.

Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 19-11-150, relating to issuance of income-withholding orders, as follows:

| 1053 | "19-11-150 |
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An income-withholding order issued in another state may be sent by or on behalf of the obligee, or by the support enforcement agency, to the person defined as the obligor's

employer pursuant to Code Sections 19-6-31 <u>19-6-32</u> through 19-6-33 <u>19-6-33.1</u> without

first filing a petition or comparable pleading or registering the order with a tribunal of this

1058 state."

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1059 **SECTION 1-29.**

Said title is further amended by revising subsection (d) of Code Section 19-11-164, relating

- 1061 to notification to nonregistering party and obligor's employer, as follows:
- 1062 "(d) Upon registration of an income-withholding order for enforcement, the <u>child</u> support
- enforcement agency or the registering tribunal shall notify the obligor's employer pursuant
- to Code Sections 19-6-31 <u>19-6-32</u> through 19-6-33 <u>19-6-33.1</u>."

1065 **PART II**

1066 **SECTION 2-1.**

- 1067 Code Section 7-4-12.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to interest on
- arrearage on child support, is amended by revising subsection (b) as follows:
- 1069 "(b) Subsection (a) of this Code section shall not be construed to abrogate the authority of
- 1070 a IV-D agency the Department of Human Services to waive, reduce, or negotiate a
- settlement of unreimbursed public assistance in accordance with subsection (b) of Code
- 1072 Section 19-11-5."
- 1073 **SECTION 2-2.**
- 1074 Code Section 10-1-393.10 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to filing of
- 1075 contracts for collections, as follows:
- 1076 "(f) Upon the request of an obligee, the Child Support Enforcement Agency of entity
- within the department authorized to enforce support orders shall forward child support
- payments made payable to the obligee to any private child support collector that is in
- 1079 compliance with the provisions of this Code section and Code Section 10-1-393.9."
- 1080 **SECTION 2-3.**
- Said title is further amended by replacing "IV-D agency" with "child support enforcement
- 1082 agency" wherever such term appears in:
- 1083 (1) Code Section 19-11-9.1, relating to duty to furnish information about obligor to
- department, use of information obtained, and penalty for noncompliance;

1085 (2) Code Section 19-11-12, relating to review of orders for child support, review procedures,

- 1086 order adjusting support award amount, and no release from liability due to subsequent
- 1087 financial obligation;
- 1088 (3) Code Section 19-11-15.1, relating to information required to be given to individuals
- 1089 receiving services;
- 1090 (4) Code Section 19-11-18, relating to collection procedures, notice, and judicial review;
- 1091 (5) Code Section 19-11-27, relating to accident and sickness insurance coverage for
- 1092 children, National Medical Support Notice or other notice of enrollment, and establishment
- 1093 of coverage;
- 1094 (6) Code Section 19-11-30.1, relating to computer based registry;
- 1095 (7) Code Section 19-11-30.2, relating to information from financial institutions;
- 1096 (8) Code Section 19-11-30.3, relating to responsibility of Department of Human Services
- 1097 Bank Match Registry;
- 1098 (9) Code Section 19-11-30.6, relating to reciprocal agreements with other states;
- 1099 (10) Code Section 19-11-30.10, relating to authority to levy and seize deposit;
- 1100 (11) Code Section 19-11-33, relating to notice;
- 1101 (12) Code Section 19-11-34, relating to verification and immunity from liability;
- 1102 (13) Code Section 19-11-35, relating to initiation of administrative action for levy and
- required information in notice to financial institution;
- 1104 (14) Code Section 19-11-36, relating to required information in notice to obligor;
- 1105 (15) Code Section 19-11-37, relating to challenges to levy, mistakes, procedures, and
- 1106 reimbursement;
- 1107 (16) Code Section 19-11-38, relating to required financial institution action; and
- 1108 (17) Code Section 19-11-39, relating to computerized central case registry for support
- 1109 orders.

1110 **SECTION 2-4.**

- 1111 Code Section 31-10-9.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to social security
- account information of parents, is amended by revising subsections (b) and (c) as follows:
- 1113 "(b) The state registrar shall make available the records of parent an individual's name and
- social security number to the Child Support Enforcement Agency of entity within the
- Department of Human Services <u>authorized to enforce support orders</u> for its use in the
- establishment of paternity or the enforcement of child support orders.
- (c) Information obtained <u>pursuant to this Code section</u> by the Child Support Enforcement
- 1118 Agency of entity within the Department of Human Services pursuant to this Code section
- authorized to enforce support orders may be used in an action or proceeding before any

1120 court, administrative tribunal, or other body for the purpose of establishing a child support 1121 obligation, collecting child support, or locating individuals owing the obligation."

1122 **SECTION 2-5.**

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methods of incarceration."

Article 5 of Chapter 3 of Title 42 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to 1123 1124 diversion center and program for violation of alimony and child support orders, is amended by revising Code Section 42-3-90, relating to establishment of diversion center, as follows: 1125 "42-3-90. 1126 1127 A county shall be authorized to establish a diversion center under the direction of the 1128 sheriff of the county in which the diversion center is located and a diversion program for 1129 the confinement of certain persons individuals who have been found in contempt of court 1130 for violation of orders granting temporary or permanent alimony or child support and sentenced pursuant to subsection (c) of Code Section 15-1-4. While in such diversion 1131 1132 program, the respondent shall be authorized to travel to and from his or her place of employment and to continue his or her occupation. The official in charge of the diversion 1133 program or his or her designee shall prescribe the routes, manner of travel, and periods of 1134 1135 travel to be used by the respondent in attending to his or her occupation. If the respondent's 1136 occupation requires the respondent to travel away from his or her place of employment, the 1137 amount and conditions of such travel shall be approved by the official in charge of the 1138 diversion center or his or her designee. When the respondent is not traveling to or from his 1139 or her place of employment or engaging in his or her occupation, such person respondent 1140 shall be confined in the diversion center during the term of the sentence. With the approval 1141 of the sheriff or his or her designee, the respondent may participate in educational or 1142 counseling programs offered at the diversion center. While participating in the diversion 1143 program, the such respondent shall be liable for alimony or child support as previously 1144 ordered, including arrears, and his or her income shall be subject to the provisions of Code 1145 Sections 19-6-30 through 19-6-33 <u>19-6-33.1</u> and Chapter 11 of Title 19. In addition, should any funds remain after payment of child support or alimony, the such respondent 1146 1147 may be charged and a fee payable to the county operating the diversion program to cover 1148 the costs of his or her incarceration and the administration of the diversion program which fee shall be not more than \$30.00 per day or the actual per diem cost of maintaining the 1149

respondent, whichever is less, for the entire period of time the person such respondent is

confined to the <u>diversion</u> center and participating in the <u>diversion</u> program. If the <u>such</u>

respondent fails to comply with any of the requirements imposed upon him or her in

accordance with this Code section, nothing shall prevent the sentencing judge from

revoking such assignment to a such diversion program and providing for alternative

| 1156 | SECTION 2-6. |
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| 1157 | Article 2 of Chapter 27 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to |
| 1158 | setoff of debt collection against lottery prizes, is amended by revising Code Section |
| 1159 | 50-27-55, relating to the article's applicability to prizes of \$5,000.00 or more, as follows: |
| 1160 | "50-27-55. |
| 1161 | The provisions of this article shall only apply to prizes of \$5,000.00 or more and shall not |
| 1162 | apply to any retailers authorized by the board to pay prizes of up to \$5,000.00 after |
| 1163 | deducting the price of the ticket or share; excepting that a claim for delinquent child |
| 1164 | support filed by the Child Support Enforcement Agency of entity within the Department |
| 1165 | of Human Services authorized to enforce support orders shall apply to all prizes of |
| 1166 | \$2,500.00 or more." |
| 1167 | DADT III |
| 1167 | PART III |
| 1168 | SECTION 3-1. |
| 1169 | Code Section 19-6-15, relating to child support in final verdict or decree, is amended by |
| 1170 | revising subparagraph (h)(1)(F) of as follows: |
| 1171 | "(F)(i) The total amount of work related child care costs shall be divided between the |
| 1172 | parents pro rata to determine the presumptive amount of child support and shall be |
| 1173 | included in the worksheet and written order of the court the final child support order. |
| 1174 | (ii) In situations in which work related child care costs may be variable, the court or |
| 1175 | jury may, in its discretion, remove work related child care costs from the calculation |
| 1176 | of support, and divide the work related child care costs pro rata, to be paid within a |
| 1177 | time specified in the final child support order. If a parent or nonparent custodian fails |
| 1178 | to comply with the final child support order: |
| 1179 | (I) The other parent or nonparent custodian may enforce payment of the work |
| 1180 | related child care costs by any means permitted by law; or |
| 1181 | (II) Child support services shall pursue enforcement when such unpaid costs have |
| 1182 | been reduced to a judgment in a sum certain." |
| 1183 | PART IV |
| 1184 | SECTION 4-1. |
| 1104 | SECTION 4-1. |

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.