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SENATE BILL 1162

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

FERNANDO R. MACIAS

AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILD SUPPORT; AMENDING AND ENACTING SECTIONS OF THE NMSA 1978; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. [NEW MATERIAL] STATE CASE REGISTRY. --

A. The human services department, acting as the state's child support enforcement agency pursuant to Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, shall establish a state case registry that contains records with respect to:

- (1) each case in which services are being provided by the state Title IV-D agency; and
- (2) each support order established or modified in the state on or after October 1, 1998.
- B. The records maintained by the state case registry shall use standardized data elements for parents such as names,

social security numbers and other uniform identification numbers like dates of birth and case identification numbers, and contain such other information such as on case status as the secretary of the United States department of health and human services may require.

- C. The Title IV-D agency and the administrative office of the courts shall work cooperatively to ensure that the requirements of this act are implemented in an effective, efficient and timely manner.
- D. The state case registry shall extract information from its automated system to share and compare information with and to receive information from, other databases and information comparison services in order to obtain or provide information necessary to enable the Title IV-D agency or the United States health and human services department secretary or other state or federal agencies to carry out the Title IV-D program, subject to Section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Such information comparison activities shall include the following:
- (1) furnishing to the federal case registry of child support orders established (and update as necessary with information including notice of expiration of orders) the minimum amount of information on child support cases recorded in the state case registry that is necessary to operate the registry, as specified by the United States health and human services department secretary in regulations;

(2)	exchanging information with the federa	ıl
parent locator service	e for the purposes specified in the Sta	ıte
Directory of New Hires	s Act;	

- (3) exchanging information with state agencies of the state and of other states administering programs of temporary assistance for needy families and medicaid, and other programs designated by the United States health and human services secretary, as necessary to perform state agency responsibilities under this part and under such programs; and
- (4) exchanging information with other agencies of the state, agencies of other states and interstate information networks, as necessary and appropriate to carry out or assist other states to carry out purposes of the Title IV-D program.
- Section 2. [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE. -- Sections 2 through 5 of this act may be cited as the "State Directory of New Hires Act".
- Section 3. [NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the State Directory of New Hires Act:
- A. "employee" means a person who is an employee within the meaning of Chapter 24 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. It does not include an employee of a federal or state agency performing intelligence or counterintelligence functions, if the head of such agency has determined that reporting pursuant to Section 4 of this act with respect to the employee

could endanger the safety of the employee or compromise an ongoing investigation or intelligence mission;

- B. "employer" means the same as the term in Section 3401(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and includes any governmental entity and any labor organization; and
- C. "labor organization" means the same as the term in Section 2(5) of the National Labor Relations Act and includes any entity which is used by the organization and an employer to carry out requirements described in Section 8(f)(3) of such act of an agreement between the organization and the employer.

Section 4. [NEW MATERIAL] STATE DIRECTORY OF NEW HIRES. --

- A. The human services department, acting as the state's child support enforcement agency pursuant to Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, shall, not later than October 1, 1997, establish an automated directory to be known as the state directory of new hires, which shall contain information supplied by employers on each newly hired or rehired employee.
- B. The state directory of new hires shall use the information received to locate individuals for purposes of establishing paternity and establishing, modifying and enforcing child support obligations and may disclose such information to any agent of the state Title IV-D agency that is under contract with the agency to carry out such purposes.
- C. All employers and labor organizations doing business in the state shall furnish to the state directory of

new hires a report that contains the name, address and the social security number of each newly hired or rehired employee and the name and address of and identifying number assigned under Section 6109 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to the employer.

- D. An employer in the state who also employs persons in another state and who transmits reports magnetically or electronically must designate one state in which the employer has employees to which the employer will transmit the report. Any employer who transmits reports pursuant to this paragraph shall notify the state directory of new hires in writing as to which state such employer designates for the purpose of sending reports.
- E. Any department, agency or instrumentality of the United States government shall comply with the provisions of this section by transmitting the report described in paragraph C of this section to the National Directory of New Hires.
- F. Each employer and labor organization as defined above shall report to the state directory of new hires not later than twenty days after the date the employer hires the employee; or in the case of an employer transmitting reports magnetically or electronically, by two monthly transmissions if necessary not less than twelve days nor more than sixteen days apart.
- G. Each report shall be made on a W-4 form or, at the option of the employer, an equivalent form and may be

transmitted by first class mail, magnetically or electronically.

- H. The labor department shall furnish to the state directory of new hires wage and claim information as defined in Section 303(h)(3) of the Social Security Act.
- I. The department shall reimburse the labor department for all costs incurred in furnishing the information. The state directory of new hires shall make available to state public assistance agencies responsible for administering a program specified in Section 1137(b) of the Social Security Act information reported by employers for purposes of verifying eligibility for the program or investigating fraud.
- J. The state directory of new hires shall make available to the state agencies operating employment security and workers' compensation programs access to information reported by employers for the purposes of administering such programs or investigating fraud.

Section 5. [NEW MATERIAL] PENALTIES.--The state Title IV-D agency shall impose a civil money penalty of twenty dollars (\$20.00) on employers for each instance of failure to comply with the provisions of this section, unless the failure is the result of a conspiracy between the employer and the employee to not supply the required report or to supply a false or incomplete report, in which case the penalty shall be five hundred dollars (\$500) on the employer for each instance.

Section 6. Section 40-4A-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1985,

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Chapter 105, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

"40-4A-2. DEFINITIONS. -- As used in the Support Enforcement Act:

- "authorized quasi-judicial officer" means a person appointed by the court pursuant to rule 53(a) of the Rules of Civil Procedure for the District Courts;
- "consumer reporting agency" means any person who, for monetary fees, dues or on a cooperative nonprofit basis, regularly engages in whole or in part in the practice of assembling or evaluating consumer credit information or other information on consumers for the purpose of furnishing consumer reports to third parties and who uses any means or facility of interstate commerce for the purpose of preparing or furnishing consumer reports;
- "delinquency" means any payment under an order C. for support which has become due and is unpaid;
 - "department" means the human services department; D.
- Ε. "income" means any form of periodic payment to an obligor, regardless of source, including but not limited to wages, salary, commission, compensation as an independent contractor, workers' compensation benefits, disability benefits, annuity and retirement benefits or other benefits, bonuses, interest or any other payments made by any person, but does not include:
 - (1) any amounts required by law to be withheld,

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other than creditor claims, including but not limited to federal, state and local taxes, social security and other retirement and disability contributions;

- **(2)** uni on dues;
- any amounts exempted by federal law; or (3)
- public assistance payments;
- "notice of delinquency" means the notice of F. delinquency as provided for in Section 40-4A-4 NMSA 1978;
- G. "notice to withhold income" means a notice that requires the payor to withhold from the obligor money necessary to meet the obligor's duty under an order for support and, in the event of a delinquency, requires the payor to withhold an additional amount to be applied towards the reduction of the del i nquency;
- H. "obligor" means the person who owes a duty to make payments under an order for support;
- "obligee" means any person who is entitled to receive support under an order for support or that person's legal representative;
- "order for support" means any order which has J. been issued by any judicial, quasi-judicial or administrative entity of competent jurisdiction of any state and which order provides for:
- periodic payment of funds for the support **(1)** of a child or a spouse;

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- (2) modification or resumption of payment of support;
 - (3) payment of delinquency; or
 - (4) reimbursement of support;
- K. "payor" means any person or entity who provides income to an obligor;
- L. "person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, governmental agency, public office or other entity; and
- M "public office" means the [elected official or state or local agency which is responsible by law for enforcement or collection of payment under an order for support, including but not limited to district attorneys, the department and the clerk of the district court] state disbursement unit of the department as defined in Section 454B of the Social Security Act."
- Section 7. Section 40-4A-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1985, Chapter 105, Section 4) is amended to read:
 - "40-4A-4. NOTI CE OF DELINQUENCY. --
- A. [When an obligor accrues a delinquency in an amount equal to at least one month's support obligation, the obligee or public office may prepare and serve upon the obligor a copy of a verified notice of delinquency together with a form petition to stay service of the notice to withhold income as provided for in Section 7 of the Support Enforcement Act] The

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income of a person with a support obligation imposed by a support order issued or modified in the state before October 1, 1996, if not otherwise subject to withholding under Section 40-4A-4.1 NMSA 1978, shall become subject to withholding as provided in Section 40-4A-4.1 NMSA 1978 if arrearages occur, without the need for a judicial or administrative hearing.

- B. If the date upon which payment is due under an order for support is not stated in the order for support, the due date shall be deemed to be the last day of the month.
 - C. The notice of delinquency shall:
- (1) recite those terms of the order for support which enumerate the support obligation;
- (2) contain a current computation of the period and total amount of the delinquency;
- (3) inform the obligor of the amount to be withheld;
- (4) inform the obligor of the procedures available to avoid income withholding;
- (5) state that, unless the obligor complies with the procedures to avoid income withholding, a notice to withhold income shall be served upon the payor;
- (6) state that the notice to withhold income shall be applicable to any current or subsequent payor; and
- (7) state the name and address of the public office to which withheld income shall be sent.

		D.	The original notice of delinquency shall be filed
wi th	h the clerk of the district court.		
		E.	Service of the notice of delinquency upon the

E. Service of the notice of delinquency upon the obligor shall be effected by sending [said] the notice by prepaid certified mail addressed to the obligor at his [or her] last known address or by any method provided by law for service of a summons. Proof of service shall be filed with the clerk of the district court."

Section 8. Section 40-4A-4.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1990, Chapter 30, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

"40-4A-4.1. IMMEDIATE CHILD SUPPORT INCOME WITHHOLDING. --

A. In any judicial proceeding in which child support is ordered, modified or enforced and which proceeding is brought or enforced pursuant to Title IV-D of the Social Security Act [(42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.)] as provided in Section 27-2-27 NMSA 1978, the income of the support obligor shall be subject to immediate income withholding regardless of the existence of any child support arrearage or delinquency. Effective January 1, 1994, in proceedings in which child support services are not being provided pursuant to Title IV-D and the initial child support order is issued in the state on or after January 1, 1994, the income of the support obligor shall be subject to immediate income withholding regardless of the existence of any child support arrearage or delinquency.

B. As part of the court or administrative order

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establishing, modifying or enforcing the child support obligation, the court shall issue the order to withhold.

- C. The order to withhold shall state:
- (1) the style, docket number and court having jurisdiction of the cause;
- (2) the name, address and, if available, the social security number of the obligor;
- (3) the amount and duration of the child support payments [and]. If any of the ordered amount is toward satisfaction of an arrearage or delinquency up to the date of the order, the amount payable to current and past-due support shall be specified, together with the total amount of the delinquency or arrearage, including judgment interest, if any;
- (4) the name and date of birth of the child for whom support is ordered and the name of the obligee;
- (5) the name and address of the person or agency to whom the payment is to be made, together with the agency's internal case number; and
- (6) any other information deemed necessary to effectuate the order.
- D. All Title IV-D and non-Title IV-D payments shall be made through the [appropriate public office as defined in the Support Enforcement Act, with the exception of payments provided pursuant to Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, which shall be made directly to the department] public office.

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- E. The maximum amount withheld pursuant to this section and any other garnishment shall not exceed fifty percent of the obligor's income.
- F. The order of a withholding shall be mailed by the Title IV-D agency or the support obligee, obligee's attorney or court by certified mail to the payor. The payor shall pay over income as provided by and in compliance with the procedures of Section 40-4A-8 NMSA 1978.
- The court may provide an exception to the immediate income withholding required by this section if it finds good cause for not ordering immediate withholding. burden shall be on the party claiming good cause to raise the issue and demonstrate the existence of good cause to the court. In the event of a finding of good cause, the court shall make a written finding in the order specifying the reasons or circumstances justifying the good-cause exception and why income withholding would not be in the best interest of the child. the order is one modifying a support obligation and immediate income withholding is not ordered, the order [must] shall include a finding that the obligor has timely paid support in The order shall provide that the obligor shall be the past. subject to withholding if a one-month support delinquency accrues.
- H. The court shall make an exception to the immediate income withholding required by this section if the

parties to the proceeding enter into a written agreement providing for alternative means of satisfying the child support obligation. Such an agreement shall be incorporated into the order of the court. For the purposes of this subsection, the support obligee shall be considered to be the department in the case of child support obligations that the state is enforcing pursuant to an assignment of support rights to it as a condition of the assignor's receipt of public assistance. The agreement shall contain the signatures of a representative of the department and the custodial parent.

- I. Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection G of this section, immediate income withholding shall take place if the child support obligor so requests. The notice to withhold shall be filed with the clerk of the district court and the requirements of Subsection C of this section, Subsections D, E and F of Section 40-4A-5 and Sections 40-4A-6, 40-4A-8, 40-4A-10 and 40-4A-11 NMSA 1978 shall apply.
- J. A court shall order a wage withholding effective on the date on which a custodial parent requests such withholding to begin if the court determines, in accordance with such procedures and standards as it may establish, that the request should be approved, notwithstanding:
- (1) the absence of a support delinquency of at least one month;
 - (2) a finding of good cause under Subsection G

of this section; or

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- (3) an agreement under Subsection H of this section.
- K. The standards and procedures established for purposes of Subsection J of this section shall provide for the protection of the due process rights of the absent parent, appropriate notices and the right to a hearing under the Support Enforcement Act.
- Wages not subject to withholding under Subsection J of this section shall still be subject to withholding on an earlier date as provided by law.
- Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, wages not subject to withholding because of a finding of good cause under Subsection G of this section shall not be subject to withholding at the request of a custodial parent unless the court changes its determination of good cause not to initiate immediate wage withholding.
- In the event a child support obligor accrues a delinquency in an amount equal to at least one month's support obligation and notwithstanding any previous agreement or court finding to the contrary, income withholding shall issue against the support obligor and the procedures set out in Section 40-4A-4 NMSA 1978 shall be followed. Such withholding shall terminate only upon the termination of all obligations imposed by the order of support and payment in full of all enforceable

child support delinquencies."

Section 9. Section 40-4A-8 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1985, Chapter 105, Section 8, as amended) is amended to read:

"40-4A-8. DUTIES OF PAYOR. --

- A. Any payor who has been served with a notice to withhold income shall deduct and pay over income as provided in this section. The payor shall deduct the amount designated in the notice to withhold income no later than the next payment of income that is payable to the obligor after expiration of fourteen days following service of the notice to withhold income and shall pay the amount withheld [to the designated public office on the date payment otherwise would have been made to the obligor] to the public office within seven business days. For each withholding of income, the payor shall be entitled to and may deduct a one dollar (\$1.00) fee to be taken from the income to be paid to the obligor.
- B. Whenever the obligor is no longer receiving income from the payor, the payor shall notify the [designated] public office, and the payor shall inform the obligee and public office of the last known address of the obligor and any subsequent payor, if known.
- C. Withholding of income under the Support

 Enforcement Act shall have priority over any other legal process
 under the laws of this state against the same income. Where
 there is more than one order for withholding against a single

obligor pursuant to the Support Enforcement Act, the orders shall receive priority in payment according to the date of service on the payor, subject to any contrary directive established pursuant to Subsection D of Section 40-4A-9 NMSA 1978.

- D. No payor shall discharge, discipline, refuse to hire or otherwise penalize any obligor because of the duty to withhold income.
- E. The payor shall terminate or modify withholding within fourteen days of receipt of a conformed copy of a notice to terminate or modify a withholding.
- F. Any order or notice for income withholding made pursuant to Section 40-4A-4.1 or 40-4A-5 NMSA 1978 shall be binding against future payors by operation of law upon actual knowledge of the contents of the order or notice or upon receipt by personal delivery or certified mail of a filed copy of the order or notice to the payor."

Section 10. Section 40-4A-11 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1985, Chapter 105, Section 11) is amended to read:

"40-4A-11. PENALTIES.--If any person willfully fails to withhold or pay over income pursuant to the Support Enforcement Act, willfully discharges, disciplines, refuses to hire or otherwise penalizes an obligor as prohibited by Subsection [£] D of Section [8 of that act] 40-4A-8 NMSA 1978, or otherwise fails to comply with any duty imposed by that act, the court, upon due

 $notice \ and \ hearing:$

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A. shall [enter judgment] impose a fine against the payor for the total amount that the payor willfully failed to withhold or pay over;

B. shall order reinstatement of or award damages to the obligor, or both, where the obligor has been discharged, disciplined or otherwise penalized by the payor; or

C. may take such other action, including action for contempt of court, as may be appropriate."

Section 11. [NEW MATERIAL] LOCATOR INFORMATION FROM INTERSTATE NETWORKS.--The state Title IV-D agency is authorized to have access to any system used by the state to locate an individual for purposes relating to motor vehicle or law enforcement.

Section 12. [NEW MATERIAL] COLLECTION AND USE OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS FOR USE IN CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT. --

A. The state must have and use procedures requiring that the social security number of:

- (1) any applicant for a professional license, commercial driver's license, occupational license or marriage license be recorded on the application;
- (2) any person who is subject to a divorce decree, support order or paternity determination or acknowledgment be placed in the records relating to the matter; and

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- **(3)** any person who has died be placed in the records relating to the death and be recorded on the death certificate.
- The collection and use of social security numbers shall be made available to the state Title IV-D agency for use in child support enforcement.

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE. -- The Section 13. [NEW MATERIAL] state Title IV-D agency shall have the authority to take the following actions relating to establishment of paternity or to establishment, modification or enforcement of support orders, without the necessity of obtaining an order from any other judicial or administrative tribunal, and to recognize and enforce the authority of state Title IV-D agencies of other states to take the following actions:

- to order genetic testing for the purpose of paternity establishments;
- to subpoena any financial or other information needed to establish, modify or enforce a support order and to impose penalties for failure to respond to such a subpoena;
- to require all entities in the state, including for-profit, non-profit and governmental employers to provide promptly, in response to a request by the state Title IV-D agency of that or any other state administering a program under this part, information on the employment compensation, and benefits of any person employed by such entity as an employee or

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contractor and to sanction failure to respond to any such request;

- D. to obtain access, subject to safeguards on privacy and information security, and subject to the nonliability of entities that afford such access, to information contained in the following records, including automated access in the case of records maintained in automated databases:
- (1) records of other states and local government agencies, including:
- (a) vital statistics, including records of marriage, birth and divorce;
- (b) state and local tax and revenue records, including information on residence address, employer, income and assets;
- (c) records concerning real and titled personal property;
- (d) records of occupational and professional licenses and records concerning the ownership and control of corporations, partnerships and other business entities;
 - (e) employment security records;
- (f) records of agencies administering
 public assistance programs;
- $\label{eq:condition} \mbox{(g) records of the motor vehicle} \\ \mbox{division; and}$

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(h)	correcti ons	records.	and

- (2) certain records held by private entities with respect to persons who owe or are owed support, or against or with respect to whom a support obligation is sought, consisting of:
- (a) the names and addresses of such persons and the names and addresses of the employers of such persons, as appearing in customer records of public utilities and cable television companies, pursuant to an administrative subpoena; and
- (b) information including information on assets and liabilities on such individuals held by financial institutions;
- E. in cases in which support is subject to an assignment in order to comply with a requirement imposed pursuant to temporary assistance for needy families or medicaid, or to a requirement to pay through the state disbursement unit established pursuant to Section 454B of the Social Security Act, upon providing notice to obligor and obligee to direct the obligor or other payor to change the payee to the appropriate government entity;
 - F. to order income withholding;
- G. in cases in which there is a support arrearage, to secure assets to satisfy the arrearage by:
 - (1) intercepting or seizing periodic or lump-

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- (a) a state or local agency, including unemployment compensation, workers' compensation and other benefits; and
 - (b) judgments, settlements and lotteries;
- (2) attaching and seizing assets of the obligor held in financial institutions;
- (3) attaching public and private retirement funds; and
- (4) imposing liens and, in appropriate cases, to force sale of property and distribution of proceeds;
- H. for the purpose of securing overdue support, to increase the amounts for arrearages, subject to such conditions or limitations as the state Title IV-D agency may provide. Such procedures shall be subject to due process safeguards, including as appropriate requirements for notice, opportunity to contest the action and opportunity for an appeal on the record to an independent administrative or judicial tribunal;
- I. the expedited procedures required shall include the following rules and authority, applicable with respect to all proceedings to establish paternity or to establish, modify or enforce support orders:
- (1) each party to any paternity or child support proceeding is required, subject to privacy safeguards, to file with the tribunal and the state case registry upon entry

of an order, and to update, as appropriate, information on location and identity of the party, including social security number, residential and mailing addresses, telephone number and driver's license number, and name, address and telephone number of employer; and

- (2) in any subsequent child support enforcement action between the parties, upon sufficient showing that diligent effort has been made to ascertain the location of such a party, the tribunal may deem state due process requirements for notice and service of process to be met with respect to the party, upon delivery of written notice to the most recent residential or employer address filed with the tribunal; and
 - J. procedures under which:
- (1) the state agency and administrative or judicial tribunal with authority to hear child support and paternity cases exerts statewide jurisdiction over the parties; and
- (2) in a state in which orders are issued by courts or administrative tribunals, a case may be transferred between local jurisdictions in the state without need for any additional filing by the petitioner, or service of process upon the respondent, to retain jurisdiction over the parties.

Section 14. Section 40-11-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986, Chapter 47, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

"40-11-5. PRESUMPTION OF PATERNITY. --

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- A. A man is presumed to be the natural father of a child if:
- (1) he and the child's natural mother are or have been married to each other and the child is born during the marriage or within three hundred days after the marriage is terminated by death, annulment, declaration of invalidity or dissolution of marriage or after a decree of separation is entered by a court;
- (2) before the child's birth, he and the child's natural mother have attempted to marry each other by a marriage solemnized in apparent compliance with law, although the attempted marriage is or could be declared invalid, and:
- (a) if the attempted marriage could be declared invalid only by a court, the child is born during the attempted marriage or within three hundred days after its termination by death, annulment, declaration of invalidity or divorce; or
- (b) if the attempted marriage is invalid without a court order, the child is born within three hundred days after the termination of cohabitation;
- (3) after the child's birth, he and the child's natural mother have married or attempted to marry each other by a marriage solemnized in apparent compliance with law, although the attempted marriage is or could be declared invalid, and:
 - (a) he has acknowledged his paternity of

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the child in writing filed with the vital statistics bureau of the public health division of the department of health;

- (b) with his consent, he is named as the child's father on the child's birth certificate; or
- (c) he is obligated to support the child under a written voluntary promise or by court order;
- (4) while the child is under the age of majority, he openly holds out the child as his natural child and has established a personal, financial or custodial relationship with the child; or
- (5) he acknowledges his paternity of the child pursuant to Section 24-14-13 NMSA 1978 or in writing filed with the vital statistics bureau of the public health division of the department of health, which shall promptly inform the mother of the filing of the acknowledgment, and, within a reasonable time after being informed of the filing, she does not dispute the acknowledgment. In order to enforce the rights of custody or visitation, a man presumed to be the father as a result of filing a written acknowledgment shall seek an appropriate judicial order in an action filed for that purpose. A signed voluntary acknowledgment of paternity is considered a legal finding of paternity, subject to the right of any signatory to rescind the acknowledgment within the earlier of:
 - (a) sixty days; or
 - (b) the date of an administrative or

proceeding to establish a support order, to which the signatory is a party. After sixty days the acknowledgment may be challenged in court only on the grounds of fraud, duress or material mistake or fact, although legal responsibilities arising from signing the acknowledgment may not be suspended during the challenge, except upon a showing of good cause.

Judicial or administrative proceedings are not required to ratify an unchallenged acknowledgment.

- B. If two or more men are presumed under this section to be the child's father, an acknowledgment by one of them may be effective only with the written consent of the other or pursuant to Subsection C of this section.
- C. A presumption under this section may be rebutted in an appropriate action only by clear and convincing evidence. If two or more men are presumed under this section to be the father of the same child, paternity shall be established as provided in the Uniform Parentage Act. If the presumption has been rebutted with respect to one man, paternity of the child by another man may be determined in the same action if he has been made a party.
- D. A man is presumed to be the natural father of a child if, pursuant to blood or genetic tests properly performed by a qualified [individual] person and evaluated by an expert, including deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) probe technique tests

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under the Uniform Parentage Act, the probability of his being the father is ninety-nine percent or higher.

- E. The voluntary acknowledgment of paternity must be recognized as a basis for seeking a support order without requiring any further proceedings to establish paternity.
- F. Full faith and credit must be given to

 determination of paternity made by other states, including
 acknowledgments of paternity."

Section 15. Section 40-11-12 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986, Chapter 47, Section 12, as amended) is amended to read:

"40-11-12. [BLOOD] GENETIC TESTS. --

- A. The court may, and upon request of a party shall, require the child, mother or alleged father to submit to blood or genetic tests, including deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) probe technique tests.
- B. The court, upon reasonable request by a party, shall order that independent tests be performed by other experts qualified as examiners of blood types or qualified as experts in the administration of genetic tests, including deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) probe technique tests.
- C. In all cases, the court shall determine the number and qualifications of the experts. This accreditation of the testing facility must be admissible without the need for foundation testimony or other proof of authenticity or accuracy unless an objection has been made in writing not later than

twenty days before a hearing on the testing results.

- D. If a putative father refuses to comply with an order for testing pursuant to this section, the court [may] shall enter a judgment of parentage against him.
- E. If the mother refuses to comply with an order for testing pursuant to this section, the court may dismiss the case without prejudice."

Section 16. Section 40-11-14 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986, Chapter 47, Section 14) is amended to read:

"40-11-14. CIVIL ACTION. --

- A. An action under the Uniform Parentage Act is a civil action governed by the rules of civil procedure. <u>Jury trial is not available in actions to establish parentage.</u> The mother of the child and the alleged father are competent to testify and may be compelled to testify.
- B. Testimony relating to sexual access to the mother by an unidentified man at any time or by an identified man at a time other than the probable time of conception is inadmissible in evidence, unless offered by the mother.
- C. In an action against an alleged father, evidence offered by him with respect to a man who is not subject to the jurisdiction of the court concerning his sexual intercourse with the mother at or about the probable time of conception of the child is admissible in evidence only if the alleged father has undergone and made available to the court blood tests, the

results of which do not exclude the possibility of his paternity of the child.

D. A default order must be entered upon a showing of service of process on the defendant or any other showing required by state law."

Section 17. Section 40-11-15 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986, Chapter 47, Section 15, as amended) is amended to read:

"40-11-15. JUDGMENT OR ORDER. --

- A. The judgment or order of the court determining the existence or nonexistence of the parent and child relationship is determinative for all purposes.
- B. If the judgment or order of the court is at variance with the child's birth certificate, the court shall order that a new birth certificate be issued.
- C. The judgment or order may contain any other provision directed against or on behalf of the appropriate party to the proceeding concerning the duty of past and future support, the custody and guardianship of the child, visitation with the child, the furnishing of bond or other security for the payment of the judgment or any other matter within the jurisdiction of the court. The judgment or order may direct the father to pay the reasonable expenses of the mother's pregnancy, birth and confinement. The court shall order child support retroactive to the date of the child's birth pursuant to the provisions of Sections 40-4-11 through 40-4-11.3 NMSA 1978.

D. Support judgments or orders ordinarily shall be
for periodic payments which may vary in amount. In the best
interest of the child, a lump-sum payment or the purchase of an
annuity may be ordered in lieu of periodic payments of support;
provided, however, a lump-sum payment shall not thereafter
deprive a state agency of its right to reimbursement from an
appropriate party should the child become a recipient of public
assistance

- E. In determining the amount to be paid by a parent for support of the child [or children], a court, child support hearing officer or master shall make such determination in accordance with the provisions of the child support guidelines of Section 40-4-11.1 NMSA 1978.
- F. Bills for pregnancy, childbirth and genetic testing are admissible as evidence without requiring third-party foundation testimony and constitute prima facie evidence of amounts incurred.
- G. Temporary support may be ordered, pending adjudication of paternity, if there is clear and convincing evidence of paternity on the basis of genetic testing or other evidence."

Section 18. Section 40-4-11.5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1990, Chapter 58, Section 2) is amended to read:

"40-4-11.5. MODIFICATION OF CHILD SUPPORT ORDERS IN CASES ENFORCED BY THE STATE TITLE IV-D AGENCY.--

A. For cl	hild support cases being enforced by the
human services depart	tment acting as the state's Title IV-D child
support enforcement a	agency as provided in Section 27-2-27 NMSA
1978, the department	shall implement a process for the periodic
review of child suppo	ort orders that shall include:
(1)	<u>a</u> review of [all orders at least every

- (1) <u>a</u> review of [all orders at least every thirty-six months] support orders every three years upon the request of either the obligor or obligee or, if there is an assignment of support rights pursuant to the public assistance act, upon the request of the department or of either the obligor or obligee;
- (2) notification by the department of its review to the obligor and obligee; and
- (3) authorization to require financial information from the obligor and the obligee to determine whether the support obligation should be presented to the court for modification.
- B. In carrying out its duties under this section, the secretary of human services, or the secretary's authorized representative, has the power to issue subpoenas:
- (1) to compel the attendance of the obligor or the obligee at a hearing on the child support order;
- (2) to compel production by the obligor or the obligee of financial or wage information, including federal or state tax returns;

- (3) to compel the obligor or the obligee to disclose the location of employment of the payor party; and
- (4) to compel the employer of the obligor or the obligee to disclose information relating to the employee's wages.
- C. A subpoena issued by the <u>human services</u> department under this section shall state with reasonable certainty the nature of the information required, the time and place where the information shall be produced, whether the subpoena requires the attendance of the person subpoenaed or only the production of information and records and the consequences of failure to obey the subpoena.
- D. A subpoena issued by the <u>human services</u> department under this section shall be served upon the person to be subpoenaed or, at the option of the secretary or the secretary's authorized representative, by certified mail addressed to the person at his last known address. The service of the subpoena shall be at least ten days prior to the required production <u>of</u> the information or the required appearance. If the subpoena is served by certified mail, proof of service is the affidavit of mailing. After service of a subpoena upon a person, if the person neglects or refuses to comply with the subpoena, the department may apply to the district court of the county where the subpoena was responded to for an order compelling compliance.

Failure of the person to comply with the district court's order shall be punishable as contempt.

- E. If a review by the human services department results in a finding that a child support order should be modified in accordance with the guidelines, it should be presented to the court for modification and the obligor and the obligee shall be notified of their respective rights and shall have thirty days to respond to the department's finding. The right to seek modification shall rest with the department in the case of obligations being enforced as a result of a public assistance recipient's assignment of support rights to the state as provided in the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 602(a)(26).
- F. At the request of the obligor or the obligee or upon the filing of a motion to modify child support, the human services department shall furnish any information it has obtained in its review process regarding wages or other information pertaining to the obligor or the obligee.
- G. Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict the right of either party to petition the court to modify a child support obligation. The human services department shall not be required to conduct a review of any party's obligation more than once every three years."

Section 19. [NEW MATERIAL] WORK REQUIREMENT FOR PERSONS

OWING PAST-DUE CHILD SUPPORT. -- The state Title IV-D agency must

have and use procedures under which the state has the authority,

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in any case in which an individual owes past-due support with respect to a child receiving assistance under a state program funded under temporary assistance for needy families, to issue an order or to request that a court or an administrative process established pursuant to state law issue an order that requires the individual to:

pay such support in accordance with a plan approved by the court, or at the option of the state, a plan approved by the state IV-D agency; or

if the individual is subject to such a plan and is not incapacitated, participate in such work activities as the court, or at the option of the state, the state IV-D agency, deems appropriate.

Section 40-4A-15 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1985, Section 20. Chapter 105, Section 17) is amended to read:

"40-4A-15. CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCIES. -- At the request of a consumer reporting agency, as defined in Section 603(f) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 USC 1681(a)(f), and upon thirty days' advance notice to the obligor, the department, in accordance with its regulations, may release information regarding the delinquency of an obligor [if the delinquency of the obligor exceeds one thousand dollars (\$1,000). The department may charge a reasonable fee to the consumer reporting agency. "

[NEW MATERIAL] LIENS. -- The state Title IV-D Section 21.

agency must have and use procedures under which:

A. liens arise by operation of law against real and personal property for amounts of overdue support owed by a noncustodial parent who resides or owns property in the state; and

B. the state courts and tribunals accord full faith and credit to liens arising in another state, when the state IV-D agency, party, or other entity seeking to enforce such a lien complies with the procedural rules relating to recording or serving liens that arise within the state, except that such rules may not require judicial notice or hearing prior to the enforcement of such a lien.

Section 22. Section 40-5A-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995, Chapter 25, Section 2) is amended to read:

"40-5A-2. PURPOSE. -- The purpose of the Parental Responsibility Act is:

A. to require parents to eliminate child support arrearages in order to maintain a professional, [or an] occupational or recreational license, including but not limited to a hunting, fishing or trapping license, and a driver's license; and

B. to require compliance with after receiving appropriate notice, subpoenas or warrants relating to paternity or child support, which will subsequently reduce both the number of children in New Mexico who live at or below the poverty level

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1	and the financial obligation that falls to the state when
2	parents do not provide for their minor children."
3	Section 23. Section 40-5A-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995,
4	Chapter 25, Section 3) is amended to read:
5	"40-5A-3. DEFINITIONSAs used in the Parental
6	Responsibility Act:
7	A. "applicant" means an obligor who is applying for
8	issuance of a license;
9	B. "board" means:
10	(1) the construction industries commission, the
11	construction industries division and the electrical bureau,
12	mechanical bureau and general construction bureau of the

(2) the manufactured housing committee and manufactured housing division of the regulation and licensing department;

construction industries division of the regulation and licensing

- (3) a board, commission or agency that administers a [professional] profession or occupation licensed pursuant to Chapter 61 NMSA 1978;
- any other state agency to which the Uniform **(4)** Licensing Act is applied by law; [or]
- a licensing board or other authority that issues a license, certificate, registration or permit to engage in a profession or occupation regulated in New Mexico;

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- (7) motor vehicle division of the taxation and revenue department;
- C. "certified list" means a verified list that includes the names, social security numbers and last known addresses of obligors not in compliance with a judgment and order for support;
 - D. "compliance" means that:
- (1) an obligor is <u>no</u> more than thirty days in arrears in payment of amounts required to be paid pursuant to an outstanding judgment and order for support; <u>and</u>
- (2) an obligor has, after receiving appropriate notice, complied with subpoenas or warrants relating to paternity or child support proceedings;
 - E. "department" means the human services department;
- F. "judgment and order for support" means the judgment entered against an obligor by the district court or a tribal court in a case brought by the department pursuant to Title IV-D of the Social Security Act;
- G. "license" means a license, certificate, registration or permit issued by a board that a person is required to have to engage in a profession or occupation in New Mexico and includes a commercial driver's license, <u>driver's</u> <u>license and recreational licenses</u>, <u>including but not limited to hunting</u>, <u>fishing or trapping licenses</u>;

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- H. "licensee" means an obligor to whom a license has been issued; and
- I. "obligor" means the person who has been ordered to pay child or spousal support pursuant to a judgment and order for support."

Section 24. Section 40-5A-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995, Chapter 25, Section 4) is amended to read:

"40-5A-4. APPLICATION FOR LICENSE. -- A person who submits an application for a license issued by a board is not eligible for issuance of the license if he is not in compliance with a judgment and order for support or subpoenas or warrants relating to paternity or child support proceedings. A board that denies or proposes to deny the application on the grounds that he is not in compliance with a judgment and order for support or subpoenas or warrants relating to paternity or child support proceedings shall advise the applicant in writing of the grounds for denial of his application and his right, if any, to a heari ng. The applicant shall have a right to a hearing if, pursuant to applicable law governing hearings, the denial of [his] the application on other grounds would have entitled [his] the applicant to a hearing. The application shall be reinstated if, within thirty days of the date of the notice, the applicant provides the board with a certified statement from the department that he is in compliance with a judgment and order for support or subpoenas or warrants relating to paternity or

child support proceedings."

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Section 25. Section 40-5A-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995, Chapter 25, Section 5) is amended to read:

RENEWAL OF LICENSE. -- A licensee who seeks renewal of his license from a board is not eligible to have the license renewed if he is not in compliance with a judgment and order for support or subpoenas or warrants relating to paternity or child support proceedings. A board that denies or proposes to deny the renewal of a license on the grounds that the licensee is not in compliance with a judgment and order for support or subpoenas or warrants relating to paternity or child support proceedings shall advise the licensee in writing of the grounds for the denial or proposed denial and his right to a The licensee shall have a right to a hearing on the denial of the renewal of his license pursuant to the applicable law governing hearings [for his profession or occupation]. The application for renewal shall be reinstated if, within thirty days of the date of the notice, the licensee provides the board with a certified statement from the department that he is in compliance with a judgment and order for support or subpoenas or warrants relating to paternity or child support proceedings."

Section 26. Section 40-5A-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995, Chapter 25, Section 6) is amended to read:

"40-5A-6. SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSE. -- The failure of a licensee to be in compliance with a judgment and

or child support proceedings is grounds for suspension or revocation of a license. The proceeding shall be conducted by [the] a board pursuant to the law governing suspension and revocation proceedings for [his profession or occupation] the license."

Section 27. Section 40-5A-7 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995, Chapter 25, Section 7) is amended to read:

"40-5A-7. CERTIFIED LISTS.--The department shall provide each board with a certified list of obligors not in compliance with a judgment and order for support or subpoenas or warrants relating to paternity or child support proceedings within ten calendar days after the first day of each month. By the end of the month in which the certified list is received, [the] each board shall report to the department the names of applicants and licensees [of the board] who are on the list and the action the board has taken in connection with such applicants and licensees."

Section 28. Section 40-5A-10 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995, Chapter 25, Section 10) is amended to read:

"40-5A-10. ACTION BY SUPREME COURT.--The supreme court shall adopt by order rules for the denial of applications or licensing and renewal of licenses and for the suspension or revocation of licenses of lawyers and other persons licensed by the supreme court for the failure of an applicant or licensee to

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be in compliance with a judgment and order for support <u>or</u> <u>subpoenas or warrants relating to paternity or child support</u> <u>proceedings</u> and may delegate the enforcement of the rules to a board under its supervision."

Section 29. Section 40-5A-13 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995, Chapter 25, Section 13) is amended to read:

"40-5A-13. ANNUAL REPORT.--The department shall report to the governor and the legislature by December 1 of each year on the progress of child support enforcement measures, including:

- A. the number of delinquent obligors certified by the department;
- B. the number of obligors who also were licensees or applicants subject to the provisions of the Parental Responsibility Act;
- C. the number of licenses that were suspended or revoked by each board, the number of new licenses and renewals that were delayed or denied by each board and the number of licenses and renewals that were granted following an applicant's compliance with a judgment and order for support or subpoenas or warrants relating to paternity or child support proceedings; and
- D. the costs incurred in the implementation and enforcement of the Parental Responsibility Act."

Section 30. [NEW MATERIAL] FINANCIAL INSTITUTION DATA
MATCHES. --

A. "Financial institution" means:

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- (1) a depository institution, as defined in section 3(c) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act(12 U. S. C. 1813(c));
- (2) an institution-affiliated party, as defined in section 3(u) of such act (12 U.S.C. 1813(u));
- (3) any federal credit union or state credit union, as defined in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 USC 1752), including an institution-affiliated party of such a credit union, as defined section 206(r) of such act (12 U.S.C.1786(r)); and
- (4) any benefit association, insurance company, safe deposit company, money-market mutual fund or similar entity authorized to do business in the state.
- B. "Account" means a demand deposit account, checking or negotiable withdrawal order account, savings account, time deposit account or money-market mutual fund account.
- C. "Past-due support" means the amount of support determined under a court order or an order of an administrative process established under state law for support and maintenance of a child or of a child and the parent with whom the child is living, which has not been paid.
- D. The human services department, acting as the state's child support enforcement agency pursuant to Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, shall enter into agreements with

financial institutions doing business in the state to develop and operate, in coordination with such financial institutions, a data match system, using automated data exchanges to the maximum extent feasible, in which each such financial institution is required to provide the information.

- E. The human services department shall establish standard procedures and formats for the financial institutions. Such procedures shall include administrative due process for child support obligors before funds or assets may be seized by the department.
- F. Each financial institution in New Mexico shall provide to the human services department for each calendar quarter the name, record address, social security number or other taxpayer identification number and other identifying information for each noncustodial parent who maintains an account at such institution and who owes past-due support, as identified by the human services department, by name and social security number or other taxpayer identification number.
- G. Upon receipt of a notice of lien or levy from the human services department, financial institutions shall encumber or surrender assets held by the institution on behalf of any noncustodial parent who is subject to a child support lien.
- H. The human services department may establish and pay a reasonable fee to a financial institution for conducting the data match provided for in this act, not to exceed the

actual costs incurred by such financial institutions.

- I. A financial institution shall not be liable under any state law to any person for disclosing of information to the human services department under this section; or for freezing or surrendering any assets held by such financial institution in response to a notice of lien or seizure issued by the human services department, or for any other action taken in good faith to comply with the requirements of this section.
- J. A state child support enforcement agency which obtains a financial record of a person from a financial institution may disclose such financial record only for the purpose of, and to the extent necessary in, establishing, modifying or enforcing a child support obligation of such person.

Section 31. [NEW MATERIAL] ENFORCEMENT OF ORDERS FOR HEALTH CARE.--All IV-D child support orders enforced shall include a provision for the health care coverage of the child, and in the case in which a noncustodial parent provides such coverage and changes employment and the new employer provides health care coverage, the state Title IV-D agency shall transfer notice of the provision to the employer, which notice shall operate to enroll the child in the noncustodial parent's health plan, unless the noncustodial parent successfully contests the notice.

Section 32. EMERGENCY. -- It is necessary for the public

peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.

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FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

1	FORTY- THIRD LEGISLATURE
2	FIRST SESSION, 1997
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5	March 10, 1997
6	
7	Mr. President:
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9	Your JUDICIARY COMMITTEE , to whom has been referred
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11	SENATE BILL 1162
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13	has had it under consideration and reports same with
14	recommendation that it DO PASS .
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16	Respectfully submitted,
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21	Fernando R. Macias, Chairman
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25	Adopted Not Adopted
	(Chi ef Clerk) (Chi ef Clerk)

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State of New Mexico House of Representatives

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION, 1997

/

Mr. Speaker:

Your **JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**, to whom has been referred

March 19, 1997

SENATE BILL 1162

has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it **DO NOT PASS**, but that

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 1162

DO PASS.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas P. Foy, Chairman

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION, 1997

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7	Yes:	11				
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