

1 SB268
2 165351-2
3 By Senator Ward
4 RFD: Judiciary
5 First Read: 18-MAR-15

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the Uniform Interstate
9 Family Support Act (UIFSA) provides uniform rules
10 for the enforcement of family support orders. In
11 1996, as a condition of state eligibility for
12 federal funding of child support enforcement,
13 Congress mandated that each state enact the UIFSA.

14 In 2008, the Uniform Law Commission amended
15 UIFSA to incorporate the provisions of the Hague
16 Convention on the International Recovery of Child
17 Support of Family Maintenance into state law. The
18 Convention contains provisions that establish
19 uniform procedures for the processing of
20 international child support cases.

21 In 2014, Congress enacted the Preventing Sex
22 Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act. That
23 act required each state to expeditiously enact the
24 2008 amendments to the UIFSA during its 2015
25 legislative session as a condition for continued
26 receipt of federal funds supporting state child
27 support programs.

1 This bill would repeal the existing Uniform
2 Interstate Family Support Act and replace it with
3 the 2008 version of the UIFSA.

4 This bill would also provide guidelines and
5 procedures for the registration, enforcement, and
6 modification of foreign support orders from
7 countries that are parties to the Convention.

8
9 A BILL
10 TO BE ENTITLED
11 AN ACT

12
13 To add Chapter 3D (commencing with Section
14 30-3D-101) to Title 30, Code of Alabama 1975; to adopt the
15 2008 Uniform Interstate Family Support Act; to provide
16 guidelines and procedures for the registration, enforcement,
17 and modification of foreign support orders from countries that
18 are parties to the Hague Convention; and to repeal Chapter 3A,
19 (commencing with Section 30-3A-101) of Title 30 of the Code of
20 Alabama 1975.

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

22 Section 1. Chapter 3D (commencing with Section
23 30-3D-101) is added to Title 30 of the Code of Alabama 1975,
24 to read as follows:

25 CHAPTER 3D.

26 UNIFORM INTERSTATE FAMILY SUPPORT ACT

27 ARTICLE 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

1 §30-3D-101. SHORT TITLE. This chapter may be cited
2 as the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act.

3 §30-3D-102. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

4 (1) "Child" means an individual, whether over or
5 under the age of majority, who is or is alleged to be owed a
6 duty of support by the individual's parent or who is or is
7 alleged to be the beneficiary of a support order directed to
8 the parent.

9 (2) "Child-support order" means a support order for
10 a child, including a child who has attained the age of
11 majority under the law of the issuing state or foreign
12 country.

13 (3) "Convention" means the Convention on the
14 International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of
15 Family Maintenance, concluded at The Hague on November 23,
16 2007.

17 (4) "Duty of support" means an obligation imposed or
18 imposable by law to provide support for a child, spouse, or
19 former spouse, including an unsatisfied obligation to provide
20 support.

21 (5) "Foreign country" means a country, including a
22 political subdivision thereof, other than the United States,
23 that authorizes the issuance of support orders and:

24 (A) which has been declared under the law of the
25 United States to be a foreign reciprocating country;

1 (B) which has established a reciprocal arrangement
2 for child support with this state as provided in Section
3 30-3D-308;

4 (C) which has enacted a law or established
5 procedures for the issuance and enforcement of support orders
6 which are substantially similar to the procedures under this
7 chapter; or

8 (D) in which the Convention is in force with respect
9 to the United States.

10 (6) "Foreign support order" means a support order of
11 a foreign tribunal.

12 (7) "Foreign tribunal" means a court, administrative
13 agency, or quasi-judicial entity of a foreign country which is
14 authorized to establish, enforce, or modify support orders or
15 to determine parentage of a child. The term includes a
16 competent authority under the Convention.

17 (8) "Home state" means the state or foreign country
18 in which a child lived with a parent or a person acting as
19 parent for at least six consecutive months immediately
20 preceding the time of filing of a petition or comparable
21 pleading for support and, if a child is less than six months
22 old, the state or foreign country in which the child lived
23 from birth with any of them. A period of temporary absence of
24 any of them is counted as part of the six-month or other
25 period.

26 (9) "Income" includes earnings or other periodic
27 entitlements to money from any source and any other property

1 subject to withholding for support under the law of this
2 state.

3 (10) "Income-withholding order" means an order or
4 other legal process directed to an obligor's employer or other
5 debtor, as defined by the income-withholding law of this
6 state, to withhold support from the income of the obligor.

7 (11) "Initiating tribunal" means the tribunal of a
8 state or foreign country from which a petition or comparable
9 pleading is forwarded or in which a petition or comparable
10 pleading is filed for forwarding to another state or foreign
11 country.

12 (12) "Issuing foreign country" means the foreign
13 country in which a tribunal issues a support order or a
14 judgment determining parentage of a child.

15 (13) "Issuing state" means the state in which a
16 tribunal issues a support order or a judgment determining
17 parentage of a child.

18 (14) "Issuing tribunal" means the tribunal of a
19 state or foreign country that issues a support order or a
20 judgment determining parentage of a child.

21 (15) "Law" includes decisional and statutory law and
22 rules and regulations having the force of law.

23 (16) "Obligee" means:

24 (A) an individual to whom a duty of support is or is
25 alleged to be owed or in whose favor a support order or a
26 judgment determining parentage of a child has been issued;

1 (B) a foreign country, state, or political
2 subdivision of a state to which the rights under a duty of
3 support or support order have been assigned or which has
4 independent claims based on financial assistance provided to
5 an individual obligee in place of child support;

6 (C) an individual seeking a judgment determining
7 parentage of the individual's child; or

8 (D) a person that is a creditor in a proceeding
9 under Article 7.

10 (17) "Obligor" means an individual, or the estate of
11 a decedent, that:

12 (A) owes or is alleged to owe a duty of support;

13 (B) is alleged but has not been adjudicated to be a
14 parent of a child;

15 (C) is liable under a support order; or

16 (D) is a debtor in a proceeding under Article 7.

17 (18) "Outside this state" means a location in
18 another state or a country other than the United States,
19 whether or not the country is a foreign country.

20 (19) "Person" means an individual, corporation,
21 business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability
22 company, association, joint venture, public corporation,
23 government or governmental subdivision, agency, or
24 instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity.

25 (20) "Record" means information that is inscribed on
26 a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other
27 medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

1 (21) "Register" means to file in a tribunal of this
2 state a support order or judgment determining parentage of a
3 child issued in another state or a foreign country.

4 (22) "Registering tribunal" means a tribunal in
5 which a support order or judgment determining parentage of a
6 child is registered.

7 (23) "Responding state" means a state in which a
8 petition or comparable pleading for support or to determine
9 parentage of a child is filed or to which a petition or
10 comparable pleading is forwarded for filing from another state
11 or a foreign country.

12 (24) "Responding tribunal" means the authorized
13 tribunal in a responding state or foreign country.

14 (25) "Spousal-support order" means a support order
15 for a spouse or former spouse of the obligor.

16 (26) "State" means a state of the United States, the
17 District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin
18 Islands, or any territory or insular possession under the
19 jurisdiction of the United States. The term includes an Indian
20 nation or tribe.

21 (27) "Support enforcement agency" means a public
22 official, governmental entity, or private agency authorized
23 to:

24 (A) seek enforcement of support orders or laws
25 relating to the duty of support;

26 (B) seek establishment or modification of child
27 support;

1 (C) request determination of parentage of a child;
2 (D) attempt to locate obligors or their assets; or
3 (E) request determination of the controlling
4 child-support order.

5 (28) "Support order" means a judgment, decree,
6 order, decision, or directive, whether temporary, final, or
7 subject to modification, issued in a state or foreign country
8 for the benefit of a child, a spouse, or a former spouse,
9 which provides for monetary support, health care, arrearages,
10 retroactive support, or reimbursement for financial assistance
11 provided to an individual obligee in place of child support.
12 The term may include related costs and fees, interest, income
13 withholding, automatic adjustment, reasonable attorney's fees,
14 and other relief.

15 (29) "Tribunal" means a court, administrative
16 agency, or quasi-judicial entity authorized to establish,
17 enforce, or modify support orders or to determine parentage of
18 a child.

19 §30-3D-103. STATE TRIBUNAL AND SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT
20 AGENCY.

21 (a) The court of this state authorized to establish,
22 enforce, or modify a support order or to determine parentage
23 is the tribunal of this state.

24 (b) The Department of Human Resources is the support
25 enforcement agency of this state.

26 §30-3D-104. REMEDIES CUMULATIVE.

1 (a) Remedies provided by this chapter are cumulative
2 and do not affect the availability of remedies under other law
3 or the recognition of a foreign support order on the basis of
4 comity.

5 (b) This chapter does not:

6 (1) provide the exclusive method of establishing or
7 enforcing a support order under the law of this state; or

8 (2) grant a tribunal of this state jurisdiction to
9 render judgment or issue an order relating to child custody or
10 visitation in a proceeding under this chapter.

11 §30-3D-105. APPLICATION OF ACT TO RESIDENT OF
12 FOREIGN COUNTRY AND FOREIGN SUPPORT PROCEEDING.

13 (a) A tribunal of this state shall apply Articles 1
14 through 6 and, as applicable, Article 7, to a support
15 proceeding involving:

16 (1) a foreign support order;

17 (2) a foreign tribunal; or

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

20 (b) A tribunal of this state that is requested to
21 recognize and enforce a support order on the basis of comity
22 may apply the procedural and substantive provisions of
23 Articles 1 through 6.

24 (c) Article 7 applies only to a support proceeding
25 under the Convention. In such a proceeding, if a provision of
26 Article 7 is inconsistent with Articles 1 through 6, Article 7
27 controls.

1 ARTICLE 2. JURISDICTION

2 §30-3D-201. BASES FOR JURISDICTION OVER NONRESIDENT.

3 (a) In a proceeding to establish or enforce a
4 support order or to determine parentage of a child, a tribunal
5 of this state may exercise personal jurisdiction over a
6 nonresident individual or the individual's guardian or
7 conservator if:

8 (1) the individual is personally served with summons
9 within this state;

10 (2) the individual submits to the jurisdiction of
11 this state by consent in a record, by entering a general
12 appearance, or by filing a responsive document having the
13 effect of waiving any contest to personal jurisdiction;

14 (3) the individual resided with the child in this
15 state;

16 (4) the individual resided in this state and
17 provided prenatal expenses or support for the child;

18 (5) the child resides in this state as a result of
19 the acts or directives of the individual;

20 (6) the individual engaged in sexual intercourse in
21 this state and the child may have been conceived by that act
22 of intercourse;

23 (7) the individual asserted parentage of a child in
24 the putative father registry maintained in this state by the
25 Department of Human Resources; or

1 (8) there is any other basis consistent with the
2 constitutions of this state and the United States for the
3 exercise of personal jurisdiction.

4 (b) The bases of personal jurisdiction set forth in
5 subsection (a) or in any other law of this state may not be
6 used to acquire personal jurisdiction for a tribunal of this
7 state to modify a child-support order of another state unless
8 the requirements of Section 30-3D-611 are met, or, in the case
9 of a foreign support order, unless the requirements of Section
10 30-3D-615 are met.

11 §30-3D-202. DURATION OF PERSONAL JURISDICTION.
12 Personal jurisdiction acquired by a tribunal of this state in
13 a proceeding under this chapter or other law of this state
14 relating to a support order continues as long as a tribunal of
15 this state has continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify
16 its order or continuing jurisdiction to enforce its order as
17 provided by Sections 30-3D-205, 30-3D-206, and 30-3D-211.

18 §30-3D-203. INITIATING AND RESPONDING TRIBUNAL OF
19 STATE. Under this chapter, a tribunal of this state may serve
20 as an initiating tribunal to forward proceedings to a tribunal
21 of another state, and as a responding tribunal for proceedings
22 initiated in another state or a foreign country.

23 §30-3D-204. SIMULTANEOUS PROCEEDINGS.

24 (a) A tribunal of this state may exercise
25 jurisdiction to establish a support order if the petition or
26 comparable pleading is filed after a pleading is filed in
27 another state or a foreign country only if:

1 (1) the petition or comparable pleading in this
2 state is filed before the expiration of the time allowed in
3 the other state or the foreign country for filing a responsive
4 pleading challenging the exercise of jurisdiction by the other
5 state or the foreign country;

6 (2) the contesting party timely challenges the
7 exercise of jurisdiction in the other state or the foreign
8 country; and

9 (3) if relevant, this state is the home state of the
10 child.

11 (b) A tribunal of this state may not exercise
12 jurisdiction to establish a support order if the petition or
13 comparable pleading is filed before a petition or comparable
14 pleading is filed in another state or a foreign country if:

15 (1) the petition or comparable pleading in the other
16 state or foreign country is filed before the expiration of the
17 time allowed in this state for filing a responsive pleading
18 challenging the exercise of jurisdiction by this state;

19 (2) the contesting party timely challenges the
20 exercise of jurisdiction in this state; and

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

23 §30-3D-205. CONTINUING, EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION TO
24 MODIFY CHILD-SUPPORT ORDER.

25 (a) A tribunal of this state that has issued a
26 child-support order consistent with the law of this state has
27 and shall exercise continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to

1 modify its child-support order if the order is the controlling
2 order and:

3 (1) at the time of the filing of a request for
4 modification this state is the residence of the obligor, the
5 individual obligee, or the child for whose benefit the support
6 order is issued; or

7 (2) even if this state is not the residence of the
8 obligor, the individual obligee, or the child for whose
9 benefit the support order is issued, the parties consent in a
10 record or in open court that the tribunal of this state may
11 continue to exercise jurisdiction to modify its order.

12 (b) A tribunal of this state that has issued a
13 child-support order consistent with the law of this state may
14 not exercise continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify the
15 order if:

16 (1) all of the parties who are individuals file
17 consent in a record with the tribunal of this state that a
18 tribunal of another state that has jurisdiction over at least
19 one of the parties who is an individual or that is located in
20 the state of residence of the child may modify the order and
21 assume continuing, exclusive jurisdiction; or

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

23 (c) If a tribunal of another state has issued a
24 child-support order pursuant to the Uniform Interstate Family
25 Support Act or a law substantially similar to that act which
26 modifies a child-support order of a tribunal of this state,

1 tribunals of this state shall recognize the continuing,
2 exclusive jurisdiction of the tribunal of the other state.

3 (d) A tribunal of this state that lacks continuing,
4 exclusive jurisdiction to modify a child-support order may
5 serve as an initiating tribunal to request a tribunal of
6 another state to modify a support order issued in that state.

7 (e) A temporary support order issued ex parte or
8 pending resolution of a jurisdictional conflict does not
9 create continuing, exclusive jurisdiction in the issuing
10 tribunal.

11 §30-3D-206. CONTINUING JURISDICTION TO ENFORCE
12 CHILD-SUPPORT ORDER.

13 (a) A tribunal of this state that has issued a
14 child-support order consistent with the law of this state may
15 serve as an initiating tribunal to request a tribunal of
16 another state to enforce:

17 (1) the order if the order is the controlling order
18 and has not been modified by a tribunal of another state that
19 assumed jurisdiction pursuant to the Uniform Interstate Family
20 Support Act; or

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

24 (b) A tribunal of this state having continuing
25 jurisdiction over a support order may act as a responding
26 tribunal to enforce the order.

1 §30-3D-207. DETERMINATION OF CONTROLLING
2 CHILD-SUPPORT ORDER.

3 (a) If a proceeding is brought under this chapter
4 and only one tribunal has issued a child-support order, the
5 order of that tribunal controls and must be recognized.

6 (b) If a proceeding is brought under this chapter,
7 and two or more child-support orders have been issued by
8 tribunals of this state, another state, or a foreign country
9 with regard to the same obligor and same child, a tribunal of
10 this state having personal jurisdiction over both the obligor
11 and individual obligee shall apply the following rules and by
12 order shall determine which order controls and must be
13 recognized:

14 (1) If only one of the tribunals would have
15 continuing, exclusive jurisdiction under this chapter, the
16 order of that tribunal controls.

17 (2) If more than one of the tribunals would have
18 continuing, exclusive jurisdiction under this chapter:

19 (A) an order issued by a tribunal in the current
20 home state of the child controls; or

21 (B) if an order has not been issued in the current
22 home state of the child, the order most recently issued
23 controls.

24 (3) If none of the tribunals would have continuing,
25 exclusive jurisdiction under this chapter, the tribunal of
26 this state shall issue a child-support order, which controls.

1 (c) If two or more child-support orders have been
2 issued for the same obligor and same child, upon request of a
3 party who is an individual or that is a support enforcement
4 agency, a tribunal of this state having personal jurisdiction
5 over both the obligor and the obligee who is an individual
6 shall determine which order controls under subsection (b). The
7 request may be filed with a registration for enforcement or
8 registration for modification pursuant to Article 6, or may be
9 filed as a separate proceeding.

10 (d) A request to determine which is the controlling
11 order must be accompanied by a copy of every child-support
12 order in effect and the applicable record of payments. The
13 requesting party shall give notice of the request to each
14 party whose rights may be affected by the determination.

15 (e) The tribunal that issued the controlling order
16 under subsection (a), (b), or (c) has continuing jurisdiction
17 to the extent provided in Section 30-3D-205 or 30-3D-206.

18 (f) A tribunal of this state that determines by
19 order which is the controlling order under subsection (b)(1)
20 or (2) or (c), or that issues a new controlling order under
21 subsection (b)(3), shall state in that order:

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

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

25 (3) the total amount of consolidated arrears and
26 accrued interest, if any, under all of the orders after all
27 payments made are credited as provided by Section 30-3D-209.

1 (g) Within 30 days after issuance of an order
2 determining which is the controlling order, the party
3 obtaining the order shall file a certified copy of it in each
4 tribunal that issued or registered an earlier order of child
5 support. A party or support enforcement agency obtaining the
6 order that fails to file a certified copy is subject to
7 appropriate sanctions by a tribunal in which the issue of
8 failure to file arises. The failure to file does not affect
9 the validity or enforceability of the controlling order.

10 (h) An order that has been determined to be the
11 controlling order, or a judgment for consolidated arrears of
12 support and interest, if any, made pursuant to this section
13 must be recognized in proceedings under this chapter.

14 §30-3D-208. CHILD-SUPPORT ORDERS FOR TWO OR MORE
15 OBLIGEEES. In responding to registrations or petitions for
16 enforcement of two or more child-support orders in effect at
17 the same time with regard to the same obligor and different
18 individual obligees, at least one of which was issued by a
19 tribunal of another state or a foreign country, a tribunal of
20 this state shall enforce those orders in the same manner as if
21 the orders had been issued by a tribunal of this state.

22 §30-3D-209. CREDIT FOR PAYMENTS. A tribunal of this
23 state shall credit amounts collected for a particular period
24 pursuant to any child-support order against the amounts owed
25 for the same period under any other child-support order for
26 support of the same child issued by a tribunal of this state,
27 another state, or a foreign country.

1 §30-3D-210. APPLICATION OF ACT TO NONRESIDENT
2 SUBJECT TO PERSONAL JURISDICTION. A tribunal of this state
3 exercising personal jurisdiction over a nonresident in a
4 proceeding under this chapter, under other law of this state
5 relating to a support order, or recognizing a foreign support
6 order may receive evidence from outside this state pursuant to
7 Section 30-3D-316, communicate with a tribunal outside this
8 state pursuant to Section 30-3D-317, and obtain discovery
9 through a tribunal outside this state pursuant to Section
10 30-3D-318. In all other respects, Articles 3 through 6 do not
11 apply, and the tribunal shall apply the procedural and
12 substantive law of this state.

13 §30-3D-211. CONTINUING, EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION TO
14 MODIFY SPOUSAL-SUPPORT ORDER.

15 (a) A tribunal of this state issuing a
16 spousal-support order consistent with the law of this state
17 has continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify the
18 spousal-support order throughout the existence of the support
19 obligation.

20 (b) A tribunal of this state may not modify a
21 spousal-support order issued by a tribunal of another state or
22 a foreign country having continuing, exclusive jurisdiction
23 over that order under the law of that state or foreign
24 country.

25 (c) A tribunal of this state that has continuing,
26 exclusive jurisdiction over a spousal-support order may serve
27 as:

1 (1) an initiating tribunal to request a tribunal of
2 another state to enforce the spousal-support order issued in
3 this state; or

4 (2) a responding tribunal to enforce or modify its
5 own spousal-support order.

6 ARTICLE 3. CIVIL PROVISIONS OF GENERAL APPLICATION

7 §30-3D-301. PROCEEDINGS UNDER CHAPTER.

8 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter,
9 this article applies to all proceedings under this chapter.

10 (b) An individual petitioner or a support
11 enforcement agency may initiate a proceeding authorized under
12 this chapter by filing a petition in an initiating tribunal
13 for forwarding to a responding tribunal or by filing a
14 petition or a comparable pleading directly in a tribunal of
15 another state or a foreign country which has or can obtain
16 personal jurisdiction over the respondent.

17 §30-3D-302. PROCEEDING BY MINOR PARENT. A minor
18 parent, or a guardian or other legal representative of a minor
19 parent, may maintain a proceeding on behalf of or for the
20 benefit of the minor's child.

21 §30-3D-303. APPLICATION OF LAW OF STATE. Except as
22 otherwise provided in this chapter, a responding tribunal of
23 this state shall:

24 (1) apply the procedural and substantive law
25 generally applicable to similar proceedings originating in
26 this state and may exercise all powers and provide all
27 remedies available in those proceedings; and

1 (2) determine the duty of support and the amount
2 payable in accordance with the law and support guidelines of
3 this state.

4 §30-3D-304. DUTIES OF INITIATING TRIBUNAL.

5 (a) Upon the filing of a petition authorized by this
6 chapter, an initiating tribunal of this state shall forward
7 the petition and its accompanying documents:

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

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

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

24 §30-3D-305. DUTIES AND POWERS OF RESPONDING
25 TRIBUNAL.

26 (a) When a responding tribunal of this state
27 receives a petition or comparable pleading from an initiating

1 tribunal or directly pursuant to Section 30-3D-301(b), it
2 shall cause the petition or pleading to be filed and notify
3 the petitioner where and when it was filed.

4 (b) A responding tribunal of this state, to the
5 extent not prohibited by other law, may do one or more of the
6 following:

7 (1) establish or enforce a support order, modify a
8 child-support order, determine the controlling child-support
9 order, or determine parentage of a child;

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

12 (3) order income withholding;

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

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

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

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

21 (8) order an obligor to keep the tribunal informed
22 of the obligor's current residential address, electronic-mail
23 address, telephone number, employer, address of employment,
24 and telephone number at the place of employment;

25 (9) issue a bench warrant for an obligor who has
26 failed after proper notice to appear at a hearing ordered by

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

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

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

7 (12) grant any other available remedy.

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

12 (d) A responding tribunal of this state may not
13 condition the payment of a support order issued under this
14 chapter upon compliance by a party with provisions for
15 visitation.

16 (e) If a responding tribunal of this state issues an
17 order under this chapter, the tribunal shall send a copy of
18 the order to the petitioner and the respondent and to the
19 initiating tribunal, if any.

20 (f) If requested to enforce a support order,
21 arrears, or judgment or modify a support order stated in a
22 foreign currency, a responding tribunal of this state shall
23 convert the amount stated in the foreign currency to the
24 equivalent amount in dollars under the applicable official or
25 market exchange rate as publicly reported.

26 §30-3D-306. INAPPROPRIATE TRIBUNAL. If a petition or
27 comparable pleading is received by an inappropriate tribunal

1 of this state, the tribunal shall forward the pleading and
2 accompanying documents to an appropriate tribunal of this
3 state or another state and notify the petitioner where and
4 when the pleading was sent.

5 §30-3D-307. DUTIES OF SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

6 (a) A support enforcement agency of this state, upon
7 request, shall provide services to a petitioner in a
8 proceeding under this chapter.

9 (b) A support enforcement agency of this state that
10 is providing services to the petitioner shall:

11 (1) take all steps necessary to enable an
12 appropriate tribunal of this state, another state, or a
13 foreign country to obtain jurisdiction over the respondent;

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

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

19 (4) within seven days, exclusive of Saturdays,
20 Sundays, and legal holidays, after receipt of notice in a
21 record from an initiating, responding, or registering
22 tribunal, send a copy of the notice to the petitioner;

23 (5) within seven days, exclusive of Saturdays,
24 Sundays, and legal holidays, after receipt of communication in
25 a record from the respondent or the respondent's attorney,
26 send a copy of the communication to the petitioner; and

1 (6) notify the petitioner if jurisdiction over the
2 respondent cannot be obtained.

3 (c) A support enforcement agency of this state that
4 requests registration of a child-support order in this state
5 for enforcement or for modification shall make reasonable
6 efforts:

7 (1) to ensure that the order to be registered is the
8 controlling order; or

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

13 (d) A support enforcement agency of this state that
14 requests registration and enforcement of a support order,
15 arrears, or judgment stated in a foreign currency shall
16 convert the amounts stated in the foreign currency into the
17 equivalent amounts in dollars under the applicable official or
18 market exchange rate as publicly reported.

19 (e) A support enforcement agency of this state shall
20 request a tribunal of this state to issue a child-support
21 order and an income-withholding order that redirect payment of
22 current support, arrears, and interest if requested to do so
23 by a support enforcement agency of another state pursuant to
24 Section 30-3D-319.

25 (f) This chapter does not create or negate a
26 relationship of attorney and client or other fiduciary
27 relationship between a support enforcement agency or the

1 attorney for the agency and the individual being assisted by
2 the agency.

3 §30-3D-308. DUTY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL.

4 (a) If the Attorney General determines that the
5 support enforcement agency is neglecting or refusing to
6 provide services to an individual, the Attorney General may
7 order the agency to perform its duties under this chapter or
8 may provide those services directly to the individual.

9 (b) The Attorney General may determine that a
10 foreign country has established a reciprocal arrangement for
11 child support with this state and take appropriate action for
12 notification of the determination.

13 §30-3D-309. PRIVATE COUNSEL. An individual may
14 employ private counsel to represent the individual in
15 proceeding authorized by this chapter.

16 §30-3D-310. DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
17 RESOURCES.

18 (a) The Department of Human Resources is the state
19 information agency under this chapter.

20 (b) The state information agency shall:

21 (1) compile and maintain a current list, including
22 addresses, of the tribunals in this state which have
23 jurisdiction under this chapter and any support enforcement
24 agencies in this state and transmit a copy to the state
25 information agency of every other state;

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

4 (3) forward to the appropriate tribunal in the
5 county in this state in which the obligee who is an individual
6 or the obligor resides, or in which the obligor's property is
7 believed to be located, all documents concerning a proceeding
8 under this chapter received from another state or a foreign
9 country; and

10 (4) obtain information concerning the location of
11 the obligor and the obligor's property within this state not
12 exempt from execution, by such means as postal verification
13 and federal or state locator services, examination of
14 telephone directories, requests for the obligor's address from
15 employers, and examination of governmental records, including,
16 to the extent not prohibited by other law, those relating to
17 real property, vital statistics, law enforcement, taxation,
18 motor vehicles, driver's licenses, and Social Security.

19 §30-3D-311. PLEADINGS AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS.

20 (a) In a proceeding under this chapter, a petitioner
21 seeking to establish a support order, to determine parentage
22 of a child, or to register and modify a support order of a
23 tribunal of another state or a foreign country must file a
24 petition. Unless otherwise ordered under Section 30-3D-312,
25 the petition or accompanying documents must provide, so far as
26 known, the name, residential address, and Social Security
27 numbers of the obligor and the obligee or the parent and

1 alleged parent, and the name, sex, residential address, Social
2 Security number, and date of birth of each child for whose
3 benefit support is sought or whose parentage is to be
4 determined. Unless filed at the time of registration, the
5 petition must be accompanied by a copy of any support order
6 known to have been issued by another tribunal. The petition
7 may include any other information that may assist in locating
8 or identifying the respondent.

9 (b) The petition must specify the relief sought. The
10 petition and accompanying documents must conform substantially
11 with the requirements imposed by the forms mandated by federal
12 law for use in cases filed by a support enforcement agency.

13 §30-3D-312. NONDISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION IN
14 EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES. If a party alleges in an affidavit
15 or a pleading under oath that the health, safety, or liberty
16 of a party or child would be jeopardized by disclosure of
17 specific identifying information, that information must be
18 sealed and may not be disclosed to the other party or the
19 public. After a hearing in which a tribunal takes into
20 consideration the health, safety, or liberty of the party or
21 child, the tribunal may order disclosure of information that
22 the tribunal determines to be in the interest of justice.

23 §30-3D-313. COSTS AND FEES.

24 (a) The petitioner may not be required to pay a
25 filing fee or other costs.

26 (b) If an obligee prevails, a responding tribunal of
27 this state may assess against an obligor filing fees,

1 reasonable attorney's fees, other costs, and necessary travel
2 and other reasonable expenses incurred by the obligee and the
3 obligee's witnesses. The tribunal may not assess fees, costs,
4 or expenses against the obligee or the support enforcement
5 agency of either the initiating or responding state or foreign
6 country, except as provided by other law. Attorney's fees may
7 be taxed as costs, and may be ordered paid directly to the
8 attorney, who may enforce the order in the attorney's own
9 name. Payment of support owed to the obligee has priority over
10 fees, costs, and expenses.

11 (c) The tribunal shall order the payment of costs
12 and reasonable attorney's fees if it determines that a hearing
13 was requested primarily for delay. In a proceeding under
14 Article 6, a hearing is presumed to have been requested
15 primarily for delay if a registered support order is confirmed
16 or enforced without change.

17 §30-3D-314. LIMITED IMMUNITY OF PETITIONER.

18 (a) Participation by a petitioner in a proceeding
19 under this chapter before a responding tribunal, whether in
20 person, by private attorney, or through services provided by
21 the support enforcement agency, does not confer personal
22 jurisdiction over the petitioner in another proceeding.

23 (b) A petitioner is not amenable to service of civil
24 process while physically present in this state to participate
25 in a proceeding under this chapter.

26 (c) The immunity granted by this section does not
27 extend to civil litigation based on acts unrelated to a

1 proceeding under this chapter committed by a party while
2 physically present in this state to participate in the
3 proceeding.

4 §30-3D-315. NONPARENTAGE AS DEFENSE.

5 A party whose parentage of a child has been
6 previously determined by or pursuant to law may not plead
7 nonparentage as a defense to a proceeding under this chapter.

8 §30-3D-316. SPECIAL RULES OF EVIDENCE AND PROCEDURE.

9 (a) The physical presence of a nonresident party who
10 is an individual in a tribunal of this state is not required
11 for the establishment, enforcement, or modification of a
12 support order or the rendition of a judgment determining
13 parentage of a child.

14 (b) An affidavit, a document substantially complying
15 with federally mandated forms, or a document incorporated by
16 reference in any of them, which would not be excluded under
17 the hearsay rule if given in person, is admissible in evidence
18 if given under penalty of perjury by a party or witness
19 residing outside this state.

20 (c) A copy of the record of child-support payments
21 certified as a true copy of the original by the custodian of
22 the record may be forwarded to a responding tribunal. The copy
23 is evidence of facts asserted in it, and is admissible to show
24 whether payments were made.

25 (d) Copies of bills for testing for parentage of a
26 child, and for prenatal and postnatal health care of the
27 mother and child, furnished to the adverse party at least 30

1 days before trial, are admissible in evidence to prove the
2 amount of the charges billed and that the charges were
3 reasonable, necessary, and customary.

4 (e) Documentary evidence transmitted from outside
5 this state to a tribunal of this state by telephone,
6 telecopier, or other electronic means that do not provide an
7 original record may not be excluded from evidence on an
8 objection based on the means of transmission.

9 (f) In a proceeding under this chapter a tribunal of
10 this state shall permit a party or witness residing outside
11 this state to be deposed or to testify under penalty of
12 perjury by telephone, audiovisual means, or other electronic
13 means at a designated tribunal or other location. A tribunal
14 of this state shall cooperate with other tribunals in
15 designating an appropriate location for the deposition or
16 testimony.

17 (g) If a party called to testify at a civil hearing
18 refuses to answer on the ground that the testimony may be
19 self-incriminating, the trier of fact may draw an adverse
20 inference from the refusal.

21 (h) A privilege against disclosure of communications
22 between spouses does not apply in a proceeding under this
23 chapter.

24 (i) The defense of immunity based on the
25 relationship of husband and wife or parent and child does not
26 apply in a proceeding under this chapter.

1 (j) A voluntary acknowledgment of paternity,
2 certified as a true copy, is admissible to establish parentage
3 of the child.

4 §30-3D-317. COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN TRIBUNALS.

5 A tribunal of this state may communicate with a
6 tribunal outside this state in a record or by telephone,
7 electronic mail, or other means, to obtain information
8 concerning the laws, the legal effect of a judgment, decree,
9 or order of that tribunal, and the status of a proceeding. A
10 tribunal of this state may furnish similar information by
11 similar means to a tribunal outside this state.

12 §30-3D-318. ASSISTANCE WITH DISCOVERY.

13 A tribunal of this state may:

14 (1) request a tribunal outside this state to assist
15 in obtaining discovery; and

16 (2) upon request, compel a person over which it has
17 jurisdiction to respond to a discovery order issued by a
18 tribunal outside this state.

19 §30-3D-319. RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF PAYMENTS.

20 (a) A support enforcement agency or tribunal of this
21 state shall disburse promptly any amounts received pursuant to
22 a support order, as directed by the order. The agency or
23 tribunal shall furnish to a requesting party or tribunal of
24 another state or a foreign country a certified statement by
25 the custodian of the record of the amounts and dates of all
26 payments received.

1 (b) If neither the obligor, nor the obligee who is
2 an individual, nor the child resides in this state, upon
3 request from the support enforcement agency of this state or
4 another state, the support enforcement agency or a tribunal of
5 this state shall:

6 (1) direct that the support payment be made to the
7 support enforcement agency in the state in which the obligee
8 is receiving services; and

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

12 (c) The support enforcement agency of this state
13 receiving redirected payments from another state pursuant to a
14 law similar to subsection (b) shall furnish to a requesting
15 party or tribunal of the other state a certified statement by
16 the custodian of the record of the amount and dates of all
17 payments received.

18 ARTICLE 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF SUPPORT ORDER OR
19 DETERMINATION OF PARENTAGE

20 §30-3D-401. ESTABLISHMENT OF SUPPORT ORDER.

21 (a) If a support order entitled to recognition under
22 this chapter has not been issued, a responding tribunal of
23 this state with personal jurisdiction over the parties may
24 issue a support order if:

25 (1) the individual seeking the order resides outside
26 this state; or

1 (2) the support enforcement agency seeking the order
2 is located outside this state.

3 (b) The tribunal may issue a temporary child-support
4 order if the tribunal determines that such an order is
5 appropriate and the individual ordered to pay is:

6 (1) a presumed father of the child;

7 (2) petitioning to have his paternity adjudicated;

8 (3) identified as the father of the child through
9 genetic testing;

10 (4) an alleged father who has declined to submit to
11 genetic testing;

12 (5) shown by clear and convincing evidence to be the
13 father of the child;

14 (6) an acknowledged father as provided by Section
15 26-17-101 et seq.;

16 (7) the mother of the child; or

17 (8) an individual who has been ordered to pay child
18 support in a previous proceeding and the order has not been
19 reversed or vacated.

20 (c) Upon finding, after notice and opportunity to be
21 heard, that an obligor owes a duty of support, the tribunal
22 shall issue a support order directed to the obligor and may
23 issue other orders pursuant to Section 30-3D-305.

24 §30-3D-402. PROCEEDING TO DETERMINE PARENTAGE.

25 A tribunal of this state authorized to determine
26 parentage of a child may serve as a responding tribunal in a
27 proceeding to determine parentage of a child brought under

1 this chapter or a law or procedure substantially similar to
2 this chapter.

3 ARTICLE 5. ENFORCEMENT OF SUPPORT ORDER WITHOUT
4 REGISTRATION

5 §30-3D-501. EMPLOYER'S RECEIPT OF INCOME-WITHHOLDING
6 ORDER OF ANOTHER STATE. An income-withholding order issued in
7 another state may be sent by or on behalf of the obligee, or
8 by the support enforcement agency, to the person defined as
9 the obligor's employer under the income-withholding law of
10 this state without first filing a petition or comparable
11 pleading or registering the order with a tribunal of this
12 state.

13 §30-3D-502. EMPLOYER'S COMPLIANCE WITH
14 INCOME-WITHHOLDING ORDER OF ANOTHER STATE.

15 (a) Upon receipt of an income-withholding order, the
16 obligor's employer shall immediately provide a copy of the
17 order to the obligor.

18 (b) The employer shall treat an income-withholding
19 order issued in another state which appears regular on its
20 face as if it had been issued by a tribunal of this state.

21 (c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d)
22 and Section 30-3D-503, the employer shall withhold and
23 distribute the funds as directed in the withholding order by
24 complying with terms of the order which specify:

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

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

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

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

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

12 (d) An employer shall comply with the law of the
13 state of the obligor's principal place of employment for
14 withholding from income with respect to:

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

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

19 (3) the times within which the employer must
20 implement the withholding order and forward the child-support
21 payment.

22 §30-3D-503. EMPLOYER'S COMPLIANCE WITH TWO OR MORE
23 INCOME-WITHHOLDING ORDERS. If an obligor's employer receives
24 two or more income-withholding orders with respect to the
25 earnings of the same obligor, the employer satisfies the terms
26 of the orders if the employer complies with the law of the
27 state of the obligor's principal place of employment to

1 establish the priorities for withholding and allocating income
2 withheld for two or more child-support obligees.

3 §30-3D-504. IMMUNITY FROM CIVIL LIABILITY. An
4 employer that complies with an income-withholding order issued
5 in another state in accordance with this article is not
6 subject to civil liability to an individual or agency with
7 regard to the employer's withholding of child support from the
8 obligor's income.

9 §30-3D-505. PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE. An employer
10 that willfully fails to comply with an income-withholding
11 order issued in another state and received for enforcement is
12 subject to the same penalties that may be imposed for
13 noncompliance with an order issued by a tribunal of this
14 state.

15 §30-3D-506. CONTEST BY OBLIGOR.

16 (a) An obligor may contest the validity or
17 enforcement of an income-withholding order issued in another
18 state and received directly by an employer in this state by
19 registering the order in a tribunal of this state and filing a
20 contest to that order as provided in Article 6, or otherwise
21 contesting the order in the same manner as if the order had
22 been issued by a tribunal of this state.

23 (b) The obligor shall give notice of the contest to:

24 (1) a support enforcement agency providing services
25 to the obligee;

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

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

4 §30-3D-507. ADMINISTRATIVE ENFORCEMENT OF ORDERS.

5 (a) A party or support enforcement agency seeking to
6 enforce a support order or an income-withholding order, or
7 both, issued in another state or a foreign support order may
8 send the documents required for registering the order to a
9 support enforcement agency of this state.

10 (b) Upon receipt of the documents, the support
11 enforcement agency, without initially seeking to register the
12 order, shall consider and, if appropriate, use any
13 administrative procedure authorized by the law of this state
14 to enforce a support order or an income-withholding order, or
15 both. If the obligor does not contest administrative
16 enforcement, the order need not be registered. If the obligor
17 contests the validity or administrative enforcement of the
18 order, the support enforcement agency shall register the order
19 pursuant to this chapter.

20 ARTICLE 6. REGISTRATION, ENFORCEMENT, AND
21 MODIFICATION OF SUPPORT ORDER

22 PART 1. REGISTRATION FOR ENFORCEMENT OF SUPPORT
23 ORDER

24 §30-3D-601. REGISTRATION OF ORDER FOR ENFORCEMENT.

25 A support order or income-withholding order issued
26 in another state or a foreign support order may be registered
27 in this state for enforcement.

1 §30-3D-602. PROCEDURE TO REGISTER ORDER FOR
2 ENFORCEMENT.

3 (a) Except as otherwise provided in Section
4 30-3D-706, a support order or income-withholding order of
5 another state or a foreign support order may be registered in
6 this state by sending the following records to the appropriate
7 tribunal in this state:

8 (1) a letter of transmittal to the tribunal
9 requesting registration and enforcement;

10 (2) two copies, including one certified copy, of the
11 order to be registered, including any modification of the
12 order;

13 (3) a sworn statement by the person requesting
14 registration or a certified statement by the custodian of the
15 records showing the amount of any arrearage;

16 (4) the name of the obligor and, if known:

17 (A) the obligor's address and Social Security
18 number;

19 (B) the name and address of the obligor's employer
20 and any other source of income of the obligor; and

21 (C) a description and the location of property of
22 the obligor in this state not exempt from execution; and

23 (5) except as otherwise provided in Section
24 30-3D-312, the name and address of the obligee and, if
25 applicable, the person to whom support payments are to be
26 remitted.

1 (b) On receipt of a request for registration, the
2 registering tribunal shall cause the order to be filed as an
3 order of a tribunal of another state or a foreign support
4 order, together with one copy of the documents and
5 information, regardless of their form.

6 (c) A petition or comparable pleading seeking a
7 remedy that must be affirmatively sought under other law of
8 this state may be filed at the same time as the request for
9 registration or later. The pleading must specify the grounds
10 for the remedy sought.

11 (d) If two or more orders are in effect, the person
12 requesting registration shall:

13 (1) furnish to the tribunal a copy of every support
14 order asserted to be in effect in addition to the documents
15 specified in this section;

16 (2) specify the order alleged to be the controlling
17 order, if any; and

18 (3) specify the amount of consolidated arrears, if
19 any.

20 (e) A request for a determination of which is the
21 controlling order may be filed separately or with a request
22 for registration and enforcement or for registration and
23 modification. The person requesting registration shall give
24 notice of the request to each party whose rights may be
25 affected by the determination.

26 §30-3D-603. EFFECT OF REGISTRATION FOR ENFORCEMENT.

1 (a) A support order or income-withholding order
2 issued in another state or a foreign support order is
3 registered when the order is filed in the registering tribunal
4 of this state.

5 (b) A registered support order issued in another
6 state or a foreign country is enforceable in the same manner
7 and is subject to the same procedures as an order issued by a
8 tribunal of this state.

9 (c) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a
10 tribunal of this state shall recognize and enforce, but may
11 not modify, a registered support order if the issuing tribunal
12 had jurisdiction.

13 §30-3D-604. CHOICE OF LAW.

14 (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d),
15 the law of the issuing state or foreign country governs:

16 (1) the nature, extent, amount, and duration of
17 current payments under a registered support order;

18 (2) the computation and payment of arrearages and
19 accrual of interest on the arrearages under the support order;
20 and

21 (3) the existence and satisfaction of other
22 obligations under the support order.

23 (b) In a proceeding for arrears under a registered
24 support order, the statute of limitation of this state, or of
25 the issuing state or foreign country, whichever is longer,
26 applies.

1 (c) A responding tribunal of this state shall apply
2 the procedures and remedies of this state to enforce current
3 support and collect arrears and interest due on a support
4 order of another state or a foreign country registered in this
5 state.

6 (d) After a tribunal of this state or another state
7 determines which is the controlling order and issues an order
8 consolidating arrears, if any, a tribunal of this state shall
9 prospectively apply the law of the state or foreign country
10 issuing the controlling order, including its law on interest
11 on arrears, on current and future support, and on consolidated
12 arrears.

13 PART 2. CONTEST OF VALIDITY OR ENFORCEMENT

14 §30-3D-605. NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF ORDER.

15 (a) When a support order or income-withholding order
16 issued in another state or a foreign support order is
17 registered, the registering tribunal of this state shall
18 notify the nonregistering party. The notice must be
19 accompanied by a copy of the registered order and the
20 documents and relevant information accompanying the order.

21 (b) A notice must inform the nonregistering party:

22 (1) that a registered support order is enforceable
23 as of the date of registration in the same manner as an order
24 issued by a tribunal of this state;

25 (2) that a hearing to contest the validity or
26 enforcement of the registered order must be requested within

1 30 days after notice unless the registered order is under
2 Section 30-3D-707;

3 (3) that failure to contest the validity or
4 enforcement of the registered order in a timely manner will
5 result in confirmation of the order and enforcement of the
6 order and the alleged arrearages; and

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

8 (c) If the registering party asserts that two or
9 more orders are in effect, a notice must also:

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

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

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

18 (4) state that failure to contest the validity or
19 enforcement of the order alleged to be the controlling order
20 in a timely manner may result in confirmation that the order
21 is the controlling order.

22 (d) Upon registration of an income-withholding order
23 for enforcement, the support enforcement agency or the
24 registering tribunal shall notify the obligor's employer
25 pursuant to the income-withholding law of this state.

26 §30-3D-606. PROCEDURE TO CONTEST VALIDITY OR
27 ENFORCEMENT OF REGISTERED SUPPORT ORDER.

1 (a) A nonregistering party seeking to contest the
2 validity or enforcement of a registered support order in this
3 state shall request a hearing within the time required by
4 Section 30-3D-605. The nonregistering party may seek to vacate
5 the registration, to assert any defense to an allegation of
6 noncompliance with the registered order, or to contest the
7 remedies being sought or the amount of any alleged arrearages
8 pursuant to Section 30-3D-607.

9 (b) If the nonregistering party fails to contest the
10 validity or enforcement of the registered support order in a
11 timely manner, the order is confirmed by operation of law.

12 (c) If a nonregistering party requests a hearing to
13 contest the validity or enforcement of the registered support
14 order, the registering tribunal shall schedule the matter for
15 hearing and give notice to the parties of the date, time, and
16 place of the hearing.

17 §30-3D-607. CONTEST OF REGISTRATION OR ENFORCEMENT.

18 (a) A party contesting the validity or enforcement
19 of a registered support order or seeking to vacate the
20 registration has the burden of proving one or more of the
21 following defenses:

22 (1) the issuing tribunal lacked personal
23 jurisdiction over the contesting party;

24 (2) the order was obtained by fraud;

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

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

3 (5) there is a defense under the law of this state
4 to the remedy sought;

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

6 (7) the statute of limitation under Section
7 30-3D-604 precludes enforcement of some or all of the alleged
8 arrearages; or

9 (8) the alleged controlling order is not the
10 controlling order.

11 (b) If a party presents evidence establishing a full
12 or partial defense under subsection (a), a tribunal may stay
13 enforcement of a registered support order, continue the
14 proceeding to permit production of additional relevant
15 evidence, and issue other appropriate orders. An uncontested
16 portion of the registered support order may be enforced by all
17 remedies available under the law of this state.

18 (c) If the contesting party does not establish a
19 defense under subsection (a) to the validity or enforcement of
20 a registered support order, the registering tribunal shall
21 issue an order confirming the order.

22 §30-3D-608. CONFIRMED ORDER. Confirmation of a
23 registered support order, whether by operation of law or after
24 notice and hearing, precludes further contest of the order
25 with respect to any matter that could have been asserted at
26 the time of registration.

1 PART 3. REGISTRATION AND MODIFICATION OF
2 CHILD-SUPPORT ORDER OF ANOTHER STATE

3 §30-3D-609. PROCEDURE TO REGISTER CHILD-SUPPORT
4 ORDER OF ANOTHER STATE FOR MODIFICATION. A party or support
5 enforcement agency seeking to modify, or to modify and
6 enforce, a child-support order issued in another state shall
7 register that order in this state in the same manner provided
8 in Sections 30-3D-601 through 30-3D-608 if the order has not
9 been registered. A petition for modification may be filed at
10 the same time as a request for registration, or later. The
11 pleading must specify the grounds for modification.

12 §30-3D-610. EFFECT OF REGISTRATION FOR MODIFICATION.
13 A tribunal of this state may enforce a child-support order of
14 another state registered for purposes of modification, in the
15 same manner as if the order had been issued by a tribunal of
16 this state, but the registered support order may be modified
17 only if the requirements of Section 30-3D-611 or Section
18 30-3D-613 have been met.

19 §30-3D-611. MODIFICATION OF CHILD-SUPPORT ORDER OF
20 ANOTHER STATE.

21 (a) If Section 30-3D-613 does not apply, upon
22 petition a tribunal of this state may modify a child-support
23 order issued in another state which is registered in this
24 state if, after notice and hearing, the tribunal finds that:

25 (1) the following requirements are met:

26 (A) neither the child, nor the obligee who is an
27 individual, nor the obligor resides in the issuing state;

1 (B) a petitioner who is a nonresident of this state
2 seeks modification; and

3 (C) the respondent is subject to the personal
4 jurisdiction of the tribunal of this state; or

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

12 (b) Modification of a registered child-support order
13 is subject to the same requirements, procedures, and defenses
14 that apply to the modification of an order issued by a
15 tribunal of this state and the order may be enforced and
16 satisfied in the same manner.

17 (c) A tribunal of this state may not modify any
18 aspect of a child-support order that may not be modified under
19 the law of the issuing state, including the duration of the
20 obligation of support. If two or more tribunals have issued
21 child-support orders for the same obligor and same child, the
22 order that controls and must be so recognized under Section
23 30-3D-207 establishes the aspects of the support order which
24 are nonmodifiable.

25 (d) In a proceeding to modify a child-support order,
26 the law of the state that is determined to have issued the
27 initial controlling order governs the duration of the

1 obligation of support. The obligor's fulfillment of the duty
2 of support established by that order precludes imposition of a
3 further obligation of support by a tribunal of this state.

4 (e) On the issuance of an order by a tribunal of
5 this state modifying a child-support order issued in another
6 state, the tribunal of this state becomes the tribunal having
7 continuing, exclusive jurisdiction.

8 (f) Notwithstanding subsections (a) through (e) and
9 Section 30-3D-201(b), a tribunal of this state retains
10 jurisdiction to modify an order issued by a tribunal of this
11 state if:

- 12 (1) one party resides in another state; and
13 (2) the other party resides outside the United
14 States.

15 §30-3D-612. RECOGNITION OF ORDER MODIFIED IN ANOTHER
16 STATE.

17 If a child-support order issued by a tribunal of
18 this state is modified by a tribunal of another state which
19 assumed jurisdiction pursuant to the Uniform Interstate Family
20 Support Act, a tribunal of this state:

21 (1) may enforce its order that was modified only as
22 to arrears and interest accruing before the modification;

23 (2) may provide appropriate relief for violations of
24 its order which occurred before the effective date of the
25 modification; and

26 (3) shall recognize the modifying order of the other
27 state, upon registration, for the purpose of enforcement.

1 §30-3D-613. JURISDICTION TO MODIFY CHILD-SUPPORT
2 ORDER OF ANOTHER STATE WHEN INDIVIDUAL PARTIES RESIDE IN THIS
3 STATE.

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

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

14 §30-3D-614. NOTICE TO ISSUING TRIBUNAL OF
15 MODIFICATION. Within 30 days after issuance of a modified
16 child-support order, the party obtaining the modification
17 shall file a certified copy of the order with the issuing
18 tribunal that had continuing, exclusive jurisdiction over the
19 earlier order, and in each tribunal in which the party knows
20 the earlier order has been registered. A party who obtains the
21 order and fails to file a certified copy is subject to
22 appropriate sanctions by a tribunal in which the issue of
23 failure to file arises. The failure to file does not affect
24 the validity or enforceability of the modified order of the
25 new tribunal having continuing, exclusive jurisdiction.

26 PART 4. REGISTRATION AND MODIFICATION OF FOREIGN
27 CHILD-SUPPORT ORDER

1 §30-3D-615. JURISDICTION TO MODIFY CHILD-SUPPORT
2 ORDER OF FOREIGN COUNTRY.

3 (a) Except as otherwise provided in Section
4 30-3D-711, if a foreign country lacks or refuses to exercise
5 jurisdiction to modify its child-support order pursuant to its
6 laws, a tribunal of this state may assume jurisdiction to
7 modify the child-support order and bind all individuals
8 subject to the personal jurisdiction of the tribunal whether
9 the consent to modification of a child-support order otherwise
10 required of the individual pursuant to Section 30-3D-611 has
11 been given or whether the individual seeking modification is a
12 resident of this state or of the foreign country.

13 (b) An order issued by a tribunal of this state
14 modifying a foreign child-support order pursuant to this
15 section is the controlling order.

16 §30-3D-616. PROCEDURE TO REGISTER CHILD-SUPPORT
17 ORDER OF FOREIGN COUNTRY FOR MODIFICATION. A party or support
18 enforcement agency seeking to modify, or to modify and
19 enforce, a foreign child-support order not under the
20 Convention may register that order in this state under
21 Sections 30-3D-601 through 30-3D-608 if the order has not been
22 registered. A petition for modification may be filed at the
23 same time as a request for registration, or at another time.
24 The petition must specify the grounds for modification.

25 ARTICLE 7. SUPPORT PROCEEDING UNDER CONVENTION

26 §30-3D-701. DEFINITIONS.

27 In this article:

1 (1) "Application" means a request under the
2 Convention by an obligee or obligor, or on behalf of a child,
3 made through a central authority for assistance from another
4 central authority.

5 (2) "Central authority" means the entity designated
6 by the United States or a foreign country described in Section
7 30-3D-102(5)(D) to perform the functions specified in the
8 Convention.

9 (3) "Convention support order" means a support order
10 of a tribunal of a foreign country described in Section
11 30-3D-102(5)(D).

12 (4) "Direct request" means a petition filed by an
13 individual in a tribunal of this state in a proceeding
14 involving an obligee, obligor, or child residing outside the
15 United States.

16 (5) "Foreign central authority" means the entity
17 designated by a foreign country described in Section
18 30-3D-102(5)(D) to perform the functions specified in the
19 Convention.

20 (6) "Foreign support agreement":

21 (A) means an agreement for support in a record that:

22 (i) is enforceable as a support order in the country
23 of origin;

24 (ii) has been:

25 (I) formally drawn up or registered as an authentic
26 instrument by a foreign tribunal; or

1 (II) authenticated by, or concluded, registered, or
2 filed with a foreign tribunal; and

3 (iii) may be reviewed and modified by a foreign
4 tribunal; and

5 (B) includes a maintenance arrangement or authentic
6 instrument under the Convention.

7 (7) "United States central authority" means the
8 Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human
9 Services.

10 §30-3D-702. APPLICABILITY. This article applies only
11 to a support proceeding under the Convention. In such a
12 proceeding, if a provision of this article is inconsistent
13 with Articles 1 through 6, this article controls.

14 §30-3D-703. RELATIONSHIP OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
15 RESOURCES TO UNITED STATES CENTRAL AUTHORITY. The Department
16 of Human Resources is recognized as the agency designated by
17 the United States central authority to perform specific
18 functions under the Convention.

19 §30-3D-704. INITIATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
20 RESOURCES OF SUPPORT PROCEEDING UNDER CONVENTION.

21 (a) In a support proceeding under this article, the
22 Department of Human Resources shall:

23 (1) transmit and receive applications; and

24 (2) initiate or facilitate the institution of a
25 proceeding regarding an application in a tribunal of this
26 state.

1 (b) The following support proceedings are available
2 to an obligee under the Convention:

3 (1) recognition or recognition and enforcement of a
4 foreign support order;

5 (2) enforcement of a support order issued or
6 recognized in this state;

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

10 (4) establishment of a support order if recognition
11 of a foreign support order is refused under Section
12 30-3D-708(b)(2), (4), or (9);

13 (5) modification of a support order of a tribunal of
14 this state; and

15 (6) modification of a support order of a tribunal of
16 another state or a foreign country.

17 (c) The following support proceedings are available
18 under the Convention to an obligor against which there is an
19 existing support order:

20 (1) recognition of an order suspending or limiting
21 enforcement of an existing support order of a tribunal of this
22 state;

23 (2) modification of a support order of a tribunal of
24 this state; and

25 (3) modification of a support order of a tribunal of
26 another state or a foreign country.

1 (d) A tribunal of this state may not require
2 security, bond, or deposit, however described, to guarantee
3 the payment of costs and expenses in proceedings under the
4 Convention.

5 §30-3D-705. DIRECT REQUEST.

6 (a) A petitioner may file a direct request seeking
7 establishment or modification of a support order or
8 determination of parentage of a child. In the proceeding, the
9 law of this state applies.

10 (b) A petitioner may file a direct request seeking
11 recognition and enforcement of a support order or support
12 agreement. In the proceeding, Sections 30-3D-706 through
13 30-3D-713 apply.

14 (c) In a direct request for recognition and
15 enforcement of a Convention support order or foreign support
16 agreement:

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

19 (2) an obligee or obligor that in the issuing
20 country has benefited from free legal assistance is entitled
21 to benefit, at least to the same extent, from any free legal
22 assistance provided for by the law of this state under the
23 same circumstances.

24 (d) A petitioner filing a direct request is not
25 entitled to assistance from the Department of Human Resources.

26 (e) This article does not prevent the application of
27 laws of this state that provide simplified, more expeditious

1 rules regarding a direct request for recognition and
2 enforcement of a foreign support order or foreign support
3 agreement.

4 §30-3D-706. REGISTRATION OF CONVENTION SUPPORT
5 ORDER.

6 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this article, a
7 party who is an individual or a support enforcement agency
8 seeking recognition of a Convention support order shall
9 register the order in this state as provided in Article 6.

10 (b) Notwithstanding Sections 30-3D-311 and
11 30-3D-602(a), a request for registration of a Convention
12 support order must be accompanied by:

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

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

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

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

1 (5) a record showing a requirement for automatic
2 adjustment of the amount of support, if any, and the
3 information necessary to make the appropriate calculations;
4 and

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

8 (c) A request for registration of a Convention
9 support order may seek recognition and partial enforcement of
10 the order.

11 (d) A tribunal of this state may vacate the
12 registration of a Convention support order without the filing
13 of a contest under Section 30-3D-707 only if, acting on its
14 own motion, the tribunal finds that recognition and
15 enforcement of the order would be manifestly incompatible with
16 public policy.

17 (e) The tribunal shall promptly notify the parties
18 of the registration or the order vacating the registration of
19 a Convention support order.

20 §30-3D-707. CONTEST OF REGISTERED CONVENTION SUPPORT
21 ORDER.

22 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this article,
23 Sections 30-3D-605 through 30-3D-608 apply to a contest of a
24 registered Convention support order.

25 (b) A party contesting a registered Convention
26 support order shall file a contest not later than 30 days
27 after notice of the registration, but if the contesting party

1 does not reside in the United States, the contest must be
2 filed not later than 60 days after notice of the registration.

3 (c) If the nonregistering party fails to contest the
4 registered Convention support order by the time specified in
5 subsection (b), the order is enforceable.

6 (d) A contest of a registered Convention support
7 order may be based only on grounds set forth in Section
8 30-3D-708. The contesting party bears the burden of proof.

9 (e) In a contest of a registered Convention support
10 order, a tribunal of this state:

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

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

14 (f) A tribunal of this state deciding a contest of a
15 registered Convention support order shall promptly notify the
16 parties of its decision.

17 (g) A challenge or appeal, if any, does not stay the
18 enforcement of a Convention support order unless there are
19 exceptional circumstances.

20 §30-3D-708. RECOGNITION AND ENFORCEMENT OF
21 REGISTERED CONVENTION SUPPORT ORDER.

22 (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b),
23 a tribunal of this state shall recognize and enforce a
24 registered Convention support order.

25 (b) The following grounds are the only grounds on
26 which a tribunal of this state may refuse recognition and
27 enforcement of a registered Convention support order:

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

6 (2) the issuing tribunal lacked personal
7 jurisdiction consistent with Section 30-3D-201;

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

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

12 (5) a record transmitted in accordance with Section
13 30-3D-706 lacks authenticity or integrity;

14 (6) a proceeding between the same parties and having
15 the same purpose is pending before a tribunal of this state
16 and that proceeding was the first to be filed;

17 (7) the order is incompatible with a more recent
18 support order involving the same parties and having the same
19 purpose if the more recent support order is entitled to
20 recognition and enforcement under this chapter in this state;

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

23 (9) in a case in which the respondent neither
24 appeared nor was represented in the proceeding in the issuing
25 foreign country:

1 (A) if the law of that country provides for prior
2 notice of proceedings, the respondent did not have proper
3 notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard; or

4 (B) if the law of that country does not provide for
5 prior notice of the proceedings, the respondent did not have
6 proper notice of the order and an opportunity to be heard in a
7 challenge or appeal on fact or law before a tribunal; or

8 (10) the order was made in violation of Section
9 30-3D-711.

10 (c) If a tribunal of this state does not recognize a
11 Convention support order under subsection (b) (2), (4), or (9):

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

15 (2) the Department of Human Resources shall take all
16 appropriate measures to request a child-support order for the
17 obligee if the application for recognition and enforcement was
18 received under Section 30-3D-704.

19 §30-3D-709. PARTIAL ENFORCEMENT. If a tribunal of
20 this state does not recognize and enforce a Convention support
21 order in its entirety, it shall enforce any severable part of
22 the order. An application or direct request may seek
23 recognition and partial enforcement of a Convention support
24 order.

25 §30-3D-710. FOREIGN SUPPORT AGREEMENT.

1 (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (c)
2 and (d), a tribunal of this state shall recognize and enforce
3 a foreign support agreement registered in this state.

4 (b) An application or direct request for recognition
5 and enforcement of a foreign support agreement must be
6 accompanied by:

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

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

12 (c) A tribunal of this state may vacate the
13 registration of a foreign support agreement only if, acting on
14 its own motion, the tribunal finds that recognition and
15 enforcement would be manifestly incompatible with public
16 policy.

17 (d) In a contest of a foreign support agreement, a
18 tribunal of this state may refuse recognition and enforcement
19 of the agreement if it finds:

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

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

24 (3) the agreement is incompatible with a support
25 order involving the same parties and having the same purpose
26 in this state, another state, or a foreign country if the

1 support order is entitled to recognition and enforcement under
2 this chapter in this state; or

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

5 (e) A proceeding for recognition and enforcement of
6 a foreign support agreement must be suspended during the
7 pendency of a challenge to or appeal of the agreement before a
8 tribunal of another state or a foreign country.

9 §30-3D-711. MODIFICATION OF CONVENTION CHILD-SUPPORT
10 ORDER.

11 (a) A tribunal of this state may not modify a
12 Convention child-support order if the obligee remains a
13 resident of the foreign country where the support order was
14 issued unless:

15 (1) the obligee submits to the jurisdiction of a
16 tribunal of this state, either expressly or by defending on
17 the merits of the case without objecting to the jurisdiction
18 at the first available opportunity; or

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

22 (b) If a tribunal of this state does not modify a
23 Convention child-support order because the order is not
24 recognized in this state, Section 30-3D-708(c) applies.

25 §30-3D-712. PERSONAL INFORMATION; LIMIT ON USE.
26 Personal information gathered or transmitted under this

1 article may be used only for the purposes for which it was
2 gathered or transmitted.

3 §30-3D-713. RECORD IN ORIGINAL LANGUAGE; ENGLISH
4 TRANSLATION. A record filed with a tribunal of this state
5 under this article must be in the original language and, if
6 not in English, must be accompanied by an English translation.

7 ARTICLE 8. INTERSTATE RENDITION

8 §30-3D-801. GROUNDS FOR RENDITION.

9 (a) For purposes of this article, "governor"
10 includes an individual performing the functions of governor or
11 the executive authority of a state covered by this chapter.

12 (b) The governor of this state may:

13 (1) demand that the governor of another state
14 surrender an individual found in the other state who is
15 charged criminally in this state with having failed to provide
16 for the support of an obligee; or

17 (2) on the demand of the governor of another state,
18 surrender an individual found in this state who is charged
19 criminally in the other state with having failed to provide
20 for the support of an obligee.

21 (c) A provision for extradition of individuals not
22 inconsistent with this chapter applies to the demand even if
23 the individual whose surrender is demanded was not in the
24 demanding state when the crime was allegedly committed and has
25 not fled therefrom.

26 §30-3D-802. CONDITIONS OF RENDITION.

1 (a) Before making a demand that the governor of
2 another state surrender an individual charged criminally in
3 this state with having failed to provide for the support of an
4 obligee, the governor of this state may require a prosecutor
5 of this state to demonstrate that at least 60 days previously
6 the obligee had initiated proceedings for support pursuant to
7 this chapter or that the proceeding would be of no avail.

8 (b) If, under this chapter or a law substantially
9 similar to this chapter, the governor of another state makes a
10 demand that the governor of this state surrender an individual
11 charged criminally in that state with having failed to provide
12 for the support of a child or other individual to whom a duty
13 of support is owed, the governor may require a prosecutor to
14 investigate the demand and report whether a proceeding for
15 support has been initiated or would be effective. If it
16 appears that a proceeding would be effective but has not been
17 initiated, the governor may delay honoring the demand for a
18 reasonable time to permit the initiation of a proceeding.

19 (c) If a proceeding for support has been initiated
20 and the individual whose rendition is demanded prevails, the
21 governor may decline to honor the demand. If the petitioner
22 prevails and the individual whose rendition is demanded is
23 subject to a support order, the governor may decline to honor
24 the demand if the individual is complying with the support
25 order.

26 ARTICLE 9. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

1 §30-3D-901. UNIFORMITY OF APPLICATION AND
2 CONSTRUCTION. In applying and construing this uniform act,
3 consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity
4 of the law with respect to its subject matter among states
5 that enact it.

6 §30-3D-902. TRANSITIONAL PROVISION. This chapter
7 applies to proceedings begun on or after the effective date of
8 this chapter to establish a support order or determine
9 parentage of a child or to register, recognize, enforce, or
10 modify a prior support order, determination, or agreement,
11 whenever issued or entered.

12 Section 2. Chapter 3A (commencing with Section
13 30-3A-101) of Title 30 of the Code of Alabama 1975, is
14 repealed.

15 Section 3. This act shall become effective
16 immediately following its passage and approval by the
17 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.