

HB

242

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 242(HES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the establishment, modification, and enforcement of support
2 orders and the determination of parentage in situations involving more than one
3 state; amending Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure 79 and (82) and providing for
4 an effective date."

WJW *Can't require payment of fees*

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

6 * Section 1. AS 25.25 is amended by adding new sections to read:

25.25

7 **ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

This CS doesn't change title of article

8 Sec. 25.25.101. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter,

- 9 (1) "child" means an individual, whether over or under the age of
- 10 majority, who is or is alleged to be owed a duty of support by the individual's parent
- 11 or who is or is alleged to be the beneficiary of a support order directed to the parent;
- 12 (2) "child support order" means a support order for a child, including
- 13 a child who has attained the age of majority under the law of the issuing state;
- 14 (3) "duty of support" means an obligation imposed or imposable by law

1 to provide support for a child, spouse, or former spouse, including an unsatisfied
2 obligation to provide support;

3 (4) "home state" means the state in which a child lived with a parent
4 or a person acting as a parent for at least six consecutive months immediately
5 preceding the time of filing of a complaint or comparable pleading for support and, if
6 a child is less than six months old, the state in which the child lived from birth with
7 a parent or person acting as a parent; a period of temporary absence of a parent or
8 person acting as a parent is counted as part of the six-month or other period;

9 (5) "income" includes earnings or other periodic entitlements to money
10 from any source and any other property subject to withholding for support under the
11 law of this state;

12 (6) "income withholding order" means an order or other legal process
13 directed to an obligor, an obligor's employer, an obligor's future employer, or another
14 person, political subdivision, or department of the state, under AS 25.27 to withhold
15 support from the income of the obligor under AS 25.27;

16 (7) "initiating state" means a state in which a proceeding under this
17 chapter or a law substantially similar to this chapter, the former provisions of this
18 chapter, the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act, or the Revised Uniform
19 Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act is filed for forwarding to a responding state;

20 (8) "initiating tribunal" means the authorized tribunal in an initiating
21 state;

22 (9) "issuing state" means the state in which a tribunal issues a support
23 order or renders a judgment determining parentage;

24 (10) "issuing tribunal" means the tribunal that issues a support order
25 or renders a judgment determining parentage;

26 (11) "law" includes decisional and statutory law and rules and
27 regulations having the force of law;

28 (12) "obligee" means

29 (A) an individual to whom a duty of support is or is alleged to
30 be owed or in whose favor a support order has been issued or a judgment
31 determining parentage has been rendered;

1 (B) a state or political subdivision to which the rights under a
2 duty of support or support order have been assigned or that has independent
3 claims based on financial assistance provided to an individual obligee; or

4 (C) an individual seeking a judgment determining parentage of
5 the individual's child;

6 (13) "obligor" means an individual or the estate of a decedent who

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

8 (B) is alleged but has not been adjudicated to be a parent of a
9 child; or

10 (C) is liable under a support order;

11 (14) "register" means to file a support order or judgment determining
12 parentage with a registering tribunal;

13 (15) "registering tribunal" means the tribunal in which a support order
14 or judgment determining parentage is registered;

15 (16) "responding state" means a state to which a proceeding is
16 forwarded under this chapter or a law substantially similar to this chapter, the former
17 provisions of this chapter, the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act, or the
18 Revised Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act;

19 (17) "responding tribunal" means the authorized tribunal in a
20 responding state;

21 (18) "spousal support order" means a support order for a spouse or
22 former spouse of the obligor;

23 (19) "state" means a state of the United States, the District of
24 Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any territory or insular possession
25 subject to the jurisdiction of the United States; the term "state" includes a foreign
26 jurisdiction that has established procedures for issuance and enforcement of support
27 orders that are substantially similar to the procedures under this chapter;

28 (20) "support enforcement agency" means a public official or agency
29 authorized to seek

30 (A) enforcement of support orders or laws relating to the duty
31 of support;

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- (B) establishment or modification of child support orders;
- (C) determination of parentage; or
- (D) the location of obligors or their assets;

(21) "support order" means a judgment, decree, or order, whether temporary, final, or subject to modification, for the benefit of a child, a spouse, or a former spouse, that provides for monetary support, health care, arrearages, or reimbursement, and may include related costs and fees, interest, income withholding, attorney fees, and other relief;

(22) "tribunal" means a court, administrative agency, or quasi-judicial entity authorized to establish, enforce, or modify support orders or to determine parentage.

Sec. 25.25.102. TRIBUNALS OF THIS STATE. The superior court and the child support enforcement agency are the tribunals of this state.

Sec. 25.25.103. REMEDIES CUMULATIVE. Remedies provided by this chapter are cumulative and do not affect the availability of remedies under other law.

* Sec. 2. AS 25.25 is amended by adding new sections to read:

ARTICLE 2. JURISDICTION. *Alaska*

Sec. 25.25.201. BASES FOR JURISDICTION OVER NONRESIDENT. In a proceeding to establish, enforce, or modify a support order or to determine parentage, a tribunal of this state may exercise personal jurisdiction over a nonresident individual or the individual's guardian or conservator if

(1) the individual is personally served with a citation, summons, or notice within this state;

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

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

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

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

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

3 (7) the individual acknowledged parentage in a writing deposited with
4 the Bureau of Vital Statistics under AS 25.20.050; or

5 (8) there is another basis consistent with the constitutions of this state
6 and the United States for the exercise of personal jurisdiction.

7 Sec. 25.25.202. PROCEDURE WHEN EXERCISING JURISDICTION OVER
8 NONRESIDENT. A tribunal of this state exercising personal jurisdiction over a
9 nonresident under AS 25.25.201 may apply AS 25.25.316 to receive evidence from
10 another state and AS 25.25.318 to obtain discovery through a tribunal of another state.

11 In all other respects, AS 25.25.301 - 25.25.701 do not apply and the tribunal shall
12 apply the procedural and substantive law of this state, including the rules on choice of
13 law other than those established by this chapter.

14 Sec. 25.25.203. INITIATING AND RESPONDING TRIBUNAL OF THIS
15 STATE. Under this chapter, a tribunal of this state may serve as an initiating tribunal
16 to forward proceedings to another state and as a responding tribunal for proceedings
17 initiated in another state.

18 Sec. 25.25.204. SIMULTANEOUS PROCEEDINGS IN ANOTHER STATE.

19 (a) A tribunal of this state may exercise jurisdiction to establish a support order if the
20 complaint or comparable pleading is filed after a complaint or comparable pleading is
21 filed in another state only if

22 (1) the complaint or comparable pleading in this state is filed before
23 the expiration of the time allowed in the other state for filing a responsive pleading
24 challenging the exercise of jurisdiction by the other state;

25 (2) the contesting party timely challenges the exercise of jurisdiction
26 in the other state; and

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

28 (b) A tribunal of this state may not exercise jurisdiction to establish a support
29 order if the complaint or comparable pleading is filed before a complaint or
30 comparable pleading is filed in another state if

31 (1) the complaint or comparable pleading in the other state is filed

1 before the expiration of the time allowed in this state for filing a responsive pleading
2 challenging the exercise of jurisdiction by this state;

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

5 (3) if relevant, the other state is the home state of the child.

6 Sec. 25.25.205. CONTINUING, EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION. (a) A
7 tribunal of this state issuing a support order consistent with the law of this state has
8 continuing, exclusive jurisdiction over a child support order

9 (1) as long as this state remains the residence of the obligor, the
10 individual obligee, or the child for whose benefit the support order is issued; or

11 (2) until each individual party has filed written consent with the tribunal
12 of this state for a tribunal of another state to modify the order and assume continuing,
13 exclusive jurisdiction.

14 (b) A tribunal of this state issuing a child support order consistent with the law
15 of this state may not exercise its continuing jurisdiction to modify the order if the
16 order has been modified by a tribunal of another state under a law substantially similar
17 to this chapter.

18 (c) If a child support order of this state is modified by a tribunal of another
19 state under a law substantially similar to this chapter, a tribunal of this state loses its
20 continuing, exclusive jurisdiction with regard to prospective enforcement of the order
21 issued in this state and may only

22 (1) enforce the order that was modified as to amounts accruing before
23 the modification;

24 (2) enforce nonmodifiable aspects of that order; and

25 (3) provide other appropriate relief for violations of that order that
26 occurred before the effective date of the modification.

27 (d) A tribunal of this state shall recognize the continuing, exclusive jurisdiction
28 of a tribunal of another state that has issued a child support order under a law
29 substantially similar to this chapter.

30 (e) A temporary support order issued ex parte or pending resolution of a
31 jurisdictional conflict does not create continuing, exclusive jurisdiction in the issuing

1 tribunal.

2 (f) A tribunal of this state issuing a support order consistent with the law of
3 this state has continuing, exclusive jurisdiction over a spousal support order throughout
4 the existence of the support obligation. A tribunal of this state may not modify a
5 spousal support order issued by a tribunal of another state having continuing, exclusive
6 jurisdiction over that order under the law of that state.

7 Sec. 25.25.206. ENFORCEMENT AND MODIFICATION OF SUPPORT
8 ORDER BY TRIBUNAL HAVING CONTINUING JURISDICTION. (a) A tribunal
9 of this state may serve as an initiating tribunal to request a tribunal of another state to
10 enforce or modify a support order issued in that state.

11 (b) A tribunal of this state having continuing, exclusive jurisdiction over a
12 support order may act as a responding tribunal to enforce or modify the order. If a
13 party subject to the continuing, exclusive jurisdiction of the tribunal no longer resides
14 in the issuing state, in subsequent proceedings the tribunal may apply AS 25.25.316
15 to receive evidence from another state and AS 25.25.318 to obtain discovery through
16 a tribunal of another state.

17 (c) A tribunal of this state that lacks continuing, exclusive jurisdiction over a
18 spousal support order may not serve as a responding tribunal to modify a spousal
19 support order of another state.

20 Sec. 25.25.207. RECOGNITION OF CHILD SUPPORT ORDERS. (a) If a
21 proceeding is brought under this chapter, and one or more child support orders have
22 been issued in this or another state with regard to an obligor and a child, a tribunal of
23 this state shall apply the following rules in determining which order to recognize for
24 purposes of continuing, exclusive jurisdiction:

25 (1) if only one tribunal has issued a child support order, the order of
26 that tribunal shall be recognized;

27 (2) if two or more tribunals have issued child support orders for the
28 same obligor and child, and only one of the tribunals would have continuing, exclusive
29 jurisdiction under this chapter, the order of that tribunal shall be recognized;

30 (3) if two or more tribunals have issued child support orders for the
31 same obligor and child, and more than one of the tribunals would have continuing,

1 exclusive jurisdiction under this chapter, an order issued by a tribunal in the current
2 home state of the child shall be recognized but, if an order has not been issued in the
3 current home state of the child, the order most recently issued must be recognized;

4 (4) if two or more tribunals have issued child support orders for the
5 same obligor and child, and none of the tribunals would have continuing, exclusive
6 jurisdiction under this chapter, the tribunal of this state may issue a child support order
7 that shall be recognized.

8 (b) The tribunal that has issued an order recognized under (a) of this section
9 is the tribunal having continuing, exclusive jurisdiction.

10 Sec. 25.25.208. MULTIPLE CHILD SUPPORT ORDERS FOR TWO OR
11 MORE OBLIGEES. In responding to multiple registrations or complaints for
12 enforcement of two or more child support orders in effect at the same time with regard
13 to the same obligor and different individual obligees, when at least one of the orders
14 was issued by a tribunal of another state, a tribunal of this state shall enforce those
15 orders in the same manner as if the multiple orders had been issued by a tribunal of
16 this state.

17 Sec. 25.25.209. CREDIT FOR PAYMENTS. Amounts collected and credited
18 for a particular period under a support order issued by a tribunal of another state shall
19 be credited against the amounts accruing or accrued for the same period under a
20 support order issued by the tribunal of this state.

21 * Sec. 3. AS 25.25 is amended by adding new sections to read:

22 ARTICLE 3. CIVIL PROVISIONS OF GENERAL APPLICATION.

23 Sec. 25.25.301. PROCEEDINGS UNDER THIS CHAPTER. (a) Except as
24 otherwise provided in this chapter, AS 25.25.301 - 25.25.319 apply to all proceedings
25 under this chapter.

26 (b) This chapter provides for the following proceedings:

27 (1) establishment of an order for child support or spousal support under
28 AS 25.25.401;

29 (2) enforcement of a support order and income withholding order of
30 another state without registration under AS 25.25.501 - 25.25.502;

31 (3) registration of an order for child support or spousal support of

1 another state for enforcement under AS 25.25.601 - 25.25.612;

2 (4) modification of an order for child support or spousal support issued
3 by a tribunal of this state under AS 25.25.203 - 25.25.206;

4 (5) registration of an order for child support of another state for
5 modification under AS 25.25.601 - 25.25.612;

6 (6) determination of parentage under AS 25.25.701; and

7 (7) assertion of jurisdiction over nonresidents under AS 25.25.201 -
8 25.25.202.

9 (c) An individual or a support enforcement agency may commence a
10 proceeding authorized under this chapter by filing a complaint or a comparable
11 pleading in an initiating tribunal for forwarding to a responding tribunal or by filing
12 a complaint or a comparable pleading directly in a tribunal of another state that has
13 or can obtain personal jurisdiction over the respondent.

14 Sec. 25.25.302. ACTION BY MINOR PARENT. A minor parent, or a
15 guardian or other legal representative of a minor parent, may maintain a proceeding
16 on behalf of or for the benefit of the minor's child.

17 Sec. 25.25.303. APPLICATION OF LAW OF THIS STATE. Except as
18 otherwise provided by this chapter, a responding tribunal of this state shall *Law Tribunal*

19 (1) apply the procedural and substantive law, including the rules on
20 choice of law, generally applicable to similar proceedings originating in this state and
21 may exercise all powers and provide all remedies available in those proceedings; and

22 (2) determine the duty of support and the amount payable under the law
23 and support guidelines of this state.

24 Sec. 25.25.304. DUTIES OF INITIATING TRIBUNAL. Upon the filing of
25 a complaint or comparable pleading authorized by this chapter, an initiating tribunal
26 of this state shall forward three copies of the complaint or comparable pleading and
27 its accompanying documents

28 (1) to the responding tribunal or appropriate support enforcement
29 agency in the responding state; or

30 (2) if the identity of the responding tribunal is unknown, to the state
31 information agency of the responding state with a request that they be forwarded to the

1 appropriate tribunal and that receipt be acknowledged.

2 Sec. 25.25.305. DUTIES AND POWERS OF RESPONDING TRIBUNAL.

3 (a) When a responding tribunal of this state receives a complaint or comparable
4 pleading from an initiating tribunal or directly under AS 25.25.301(c), it shall cause
5 the complaint or pleading to be filed and notify the petitioner by first class mail where
6 and when it was filed.

7 (b) A responding tribunal of this state, to the extent otherwise specifically
8 authorized by law, may do one or more of the following:

9 (1) issue or enforce a support order, modify a child support order, or X
10 render a judgment to determine parentage;

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

13 (3) order income withholding;

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

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

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

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

19 (8) order an obligor to keep the tribunal informed of the obligor's
20 current residential address, telephone number, employer, address of employment, and
21 telephone number at the place of employment;

22 (9) issue a bench warrant for an obligor who has failed after proper
23 notice to appear at a hearing ordered by the tribunal and enter the bench warrant in
24 any local and state computer systems for criminal warrants;

25 (10) order the obligor to seek appropriate employment by specified
26 methods;

27 (11) award reasonable attorney fees and other fees and costs; and

28 (12) grant any other available remedy.

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

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

4 (e) If a responding tribunal of this state issues an order under this chapter, the
5 tribunal shall send a copy of the order by first class mail to the petitioner and the
6 respondent and to the initiating tribunal, if any.

7 Sec. 25.25.306. INAPPROPRIATE TRIBUNAL. If a complaint or comparable
8 pleading is received by an inappropriate tribunal of this state, it shall forward the
9 complaint or pleading, and accompanying documents, to an appropriate tribunal in this
10 state or another state and notify the petitioner by first class mail where and when the
11 complaint or pleading was sent.

12 Sec. 25.25.307. DUTIES OF CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

13 (a) The child support enforcement agency of this state, upon request, shall provide
14 services to a petitioner in a proceeding under this chapter.

15 (b) In providing services under this chapter to the petitioner, the child support
16 enforcement agency shall, as appropriate,

17 (1) take all steps necessary to enable an appropriate tribunal in this
18 state or another state to obtain jurisdiction over the respondent;

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

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

23 (4) send written notice from an initiating, responding, or registering
24 tribunal to the petitioner by first class mail within two days of receipt, exclusive of
25 Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays;

26 (5) send a copy of a written communication from the respondent or the
27 respondent's attorney to the petitioner by first class mail within two days of receipt,
28 exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays; and

29 (6) notify the petitioner if jurisdiction over the respondent cannot be
30 obtained.

31 (c) This chapter does not create or negate a relationship of attorney and client

1 or other fiduciary relationship between the child support enforcement agency or the
2 attorney for the agency and the individual being assisted by the agency.

3 Sec. 25.25.309. PRIVATE COUNSEL. An individual may employ private
4 counsel to represent the individual in proceedings authorized by this chapter.

5 Sec. 25.25.310. DUTIES OF STATE INFORMATION AND LOCATOR
6 AGENCY. The child support enforcement agency is the state information agency
7 under this chapter, and it shall

8 (1) compile and maintain a current list, including addresses, of the
9 courts in this state that have jurisdiction under this chapter and the appropriate agency
10 offices in this state and transmit a copy to the state information agency of every other
11 state;

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

14 (3) forward to the appropriate tribunal in this state all documents
15 concerning a proceeding under this chapter received from an initiating tribunal or the
16 state information agency of the initiating state; and

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

24 Sec. 25.25.311. PLEADINGS AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS. (a)
25 A petitioner seeking to establish or modify a support order or to determine parentage
26 in a proceeding under this chapter shall verify the complaint or comparable pleading.
27 Unless otherwise ordered under AS 25.25.312, or otherwise prohibited by law, the
28 complaint or comparable pleading or accompanying documents must provide, so far
29 as known, the name, residential address, and social security numbers of the obligor and
30 the obligee, and the name, sex, residential address, social security number, and date
31 of birth of each child for whom support is sought. The complaint or comparable

1 pleading must be accompanied by a certified copy of any support order in effect. The
2 complaint or comparable pleading may include other information that may assist in
3 locating or identifying the respondent.

4 (b) The complaint or comparable pleading must specify the relief sought. The
5 complaint or comparable pleading and accompanying documents must conform
6 substantially with the requirements imposed by the forms mandated by federal law for
7 use in cases filed by a support enforcement agency.

8 Sec. 25.25.312. NONDISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION IN EXCEPTIONAL
9 CIRCUMSTANCES. Subject to the provisions of AS 25.27.275 and upon a finding,
10 which may be made ex parte, that the health, safety, or liberty of a party or child
11 would be unreasonably put at risk by the disclosure of identifying information, or if
12 an existing order so provides, a tribunal shall order that the address of the child or
13 party or other identifying information not be disclosed in a pleading or other document
14 filed in a proceeding under this chapter.

15 Sec. 25.25.313. COSTS AND FEES. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision
16 of law, including a rule of the Alaska Supreme Court, at the time a complaint or
17 comparable pleading is filed under this chapter, a tribunal may not require the
18 petitioner to pay a filing fee or other costs.

19 (b) If an obligee prevails, a responding tribunal may assess against an obligor
20 filing fees, including fees that were waived under (a) of this section, reasonable
21 attorney fees, other costs, necessary travel expenses, and other reasonable expenses
22 incurred by the obligee and the obligee's witnesses. The tribunal may not assess fees,
23 costs, or expenses against the obligee or the support enforcement agency of either the
24 initiating or the responding state except as required by other law or court rule.
25 Attorney fees may be taxed as costs, and may be ordered paid directly to the attorney,
26 who may enforce the order in the attorney's own name. Payment of support owed to
27 the obligee has priority over fees, costs, and expenses assessed under this subsection.

28 (c) The tribunal shall order the payment of costs and reasonable attorney fees,
29 including filing fees that were waived under (a) of this section, by a party who
30 requests a hearing under this chapter if it determines that the hearing was requested
31 primarily for delay. In a proceeding under AS 25.25.601 - 25.25.612, a hearing is

1 presumed to have been requested primarily for delay if a registered support order is
2 confirmed or enforced without change; however, the party who requested the hearing
3 may present evidence to rebut this presumption.

4 Sec. 25.25.314. LIMITED IMMUNITY OF PETITIONER. (a) Participation
5 by a petitioner in a proceeding before a responding tribunal, whether in person, by
6 private attorney, or through services provided by the support enforcement agency, does
7 not confer personal jurisdiction over the petitioner in another proceeding.

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

10 (c) The immunity granted by this section does not extend to civil litigation
11 based on acts unrelated to a proceeding under this chapter committed by a party while
12 present in this state to participate in the proceeding.

13 Sec. 25.25.315. NONPARENTAGE AS DEFENSE. A party whose parentage
14 of a child has been previously determined under law may not plead nonparentage as
15 a defense to a proceeding under this chapter.

16 Sec. 25.25.316. SPECIAL RULES OF EVIDENCE AND PROCEDURE. (a)
17 The physical presence of the petitioner in a responding tribunal of this state is not
18 required for the establishment, enforcement, or modification of a support order or the
19 rendition of a judgment determining parentage.

20 (b) A verified complaint or comparable pleading, affidavit, document
21 substantially complying with federally mandated forms, and a document incorporated
22 by reference in any of them, not excluded under the hearsay rule if given in person,
23 is admissible in evidence if given under oath by a party or witness residing in another
24 state.

25 (c) A copy of the record of child support payments certified as a true copy of
26 the original by the custodian of the record may be forwarded to a responding tribunal.
27 The copy is evidence of facts asserted in it and is admissible to show whether
28 payments were made.

29 (d) Copies of bills for testing for parentage, and for prenatal and postnatal
30 health care of the mother and child, furnished to the adverse party at least 10 days
31 before trial or other proceeding, are admissible in evidence to prove the amount of the

1 charges billed and that the charges were reasonable, necessary, and customary.

2 (e) Documentary evidence transmitted from another state to a tribunal of this
3 state by telephone, telecopier, or other means that do not provide an original writing
4 may not be excluded from evidence on an objection based on the means of
5 transmission.

6 (f) In a proceeding under this chapter, a tribunal of this state may permit a
7 party or witness residing in another state to be deposed or to testify by telephone,
8 audiovisual means, or other electronic means at a designated tribunal or other location
9 in that state. A tribunal of this state shall cooperate with tribunals of other states in
10 designating an appropriate location for the deposition or testimony.

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

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

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

18 Sec. 25.25.317. COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN TRIBUNALS. A tribunal
19 of this state may communicate with a tribunal of another state in writing, or by
20 telephone or other means, to obtain information concerning the laws of that state, the
21 legal effect of a judgment, decree, or order of that tribunal, and the status of a
22 proceeding in the other state. A tribunal of this state may furnish similar information
23 by similar means to a tribunal of another state.

24 Sec. 25.25.318. ASSISTANCE WITH DISCOVERY. A tribunal of this state
25 may

26 (1) request a tribunal of another state to assist in obtaining discovery;
27 and

28 (2) upon request, compel a person over whom it has jurisdiction to
29 respond to a discovery order issued by a tribunal of another state.

30 Sec. 25.25.319. RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF PAYMENTS. The
31 child support enforcement agency of this state shall disburse promptly any amounts

1 received under a support order, as directed by the order. The agency shall furnish to
2 a requesting party or tribunal of another state a certified statement by the custodian of
3 the record of the amounts and dates of all payments received.

4 ARTICLE 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF SUPPORT ORDER.

5 Sec. 25.25.401. COMPLAINT TO ESTABLISH SUPPORT ORDER. (a) If
6 a child support order entitled to recognition under this chapter has not been issued, a
7 responding tribunal of this state may issue a child support order if

8 (1) the individual seeking the order resides in another state; or

9 (2) the support enforcement agency seeking the order is located in
10 another state.

11 (b) The tribunal may issue a temporary child support order if

12 (1) the respondent has signed a verified statement acknowledging
13 parentage;

14 (2) the respondent has been determined under law to be the parent; or

15 (3) there is other clear and convincing evidence that the respondent is
16 the child's parent.

17 (c) If a spousal support order entitled to recognition under this chapter has not
18 been issued, a responding superior court of this state may issue a spousal support order
19 if

20 (1) the individual seeking the order resides in another state; or

21 (2) the support enforcement agency seeking the order is located in
22 another state.

23 (d) If, after providing an obligor with notice and opportunity to be heard, an
24 appropriate tribunal finds that the obligor owes a duty of support, the tribunal shall
25 issue a support order directed to the obligor and may issue other orders under
26 AS 25.25.305.

27 (e) Before issuing an order under (b) of this section, the child support
28 enforcement agency shall adopt regulations for issuing such an order.

29 ARTICLE 5. DIRECT ENFORCEMENT OF ORDER OF
30 ANOTHER STATE WITHOUT REGISTRATION.

31 Sec. 25.25.501. RECOGNITION OF INCOME WITHHOLDING ORDER OF

1 ANOTHER STATE. (a) An income withholding order issued in another state may
2 be sent by first class mail to the person or entity defined as the obligor's employer
3 under AS 25.27 without first filing a complaint or comparable pleading or registering
4 the order with a tribunal of this state. Upon receipt of the order, the employer shall

5 (1) treat an income withholding order issued in another state that
6 appears regular on its face as if it had been issued by a tribunal of this state;

7 (2) immediately provide a copy of the order to the obligor; and

8 (3) distribute the funds as directed in the withholding order.

9 (b) An obligor may contest the validity or enforcement of an income
10 withholding order issued in another state in the same manner as if the order had been
11 issued by a tribunal of this state. AS 25.25.604 applies to the contest. The obligor
12 shall give notice of the contest to a support enforcement agency providing services to
13 the obligee and

14 (1) to the person or agency designated to receive payments in the
15 income withholding order; or

16 (2) if a person or agency is not designated, to the obligee.

17 Sec. 25.25.502. ADMINISTRATIVE ENFORCEMENT OF ORDERS. (a) A
18 party seeking to enforce a support order or an income withholding order, or both,
19 issued by a tribunal of another state may send the documents required for registering
20 the order to the child support enforcement agency of this state.

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

28 ARTICLE 6. ENFORCEMENT AND MODIFICATION OF
29 SUPPORT ORDER AFTER REGISTRATION.

30 Sec. 25.25.601. REGISTRATION OF ORDER FOR ENFORCEMENT. A
31 support order or an income withholding order issued by a tribunal of another state may

1 be registered in this state for enforcement.

2 Sec. 25.25.602. PROCEDURE TO REGISTER ORDER FOR
3 ENFORCEMENT. (a) A support order or income withholding order of another state
4 may be registered in this state by sending the following documents and information
5 to a tribunal of this state:

6 (1) a letter of transmittal requesting registration and enforcement;

7 (2) two copies, including one certified copy, of all orders to be
8 registered, including any modification of an order;

9 (3) a sworn statement by the party seeking registration or a certified
10 statement by the custodian of the records showing the amount of any arrearage;

11 (4) the name of the obligor and, if known,

12 (A) the obligor's address and social security number;

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

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

17 (D) the name and address of all potential third party resources,
18 including a health insurer, that might be available to meet the requirements of
19 a medical support order; and

20 (5) the name and address of the obligee and, if applicable, the agency
21 or person to whom support payments are to be remitted.

22 (b) On receipt of a request for registration, the registering tribunal shall file
23 the order as a foreign judgment, together with one copy of the documents and
24 information, regardless of their form.

25 (c) A complaint or comparable pleading seeking a remedy that must be
26 affirmatively sought under other law of this state may be filed at the same time as the
27 request for registration or later. The pleading must specify the grounds for the remedy
28 sought.

29 Sec. 25.25.603. EFFECT OF REGISTRATION FOR ENFORCEMENT. (a)
30 A support order or income withholding order issued in another state is registered when
31 the order is filed in the registering tribunal of this state.

1 (b) A registered order issued in another state is enforceable in the same
2 manner and is subject to the same procedures as an order issued by a tribunal of this
3 state.

4 (c) Except as otherwise provided in AS 25.25.601 - 25.25.612, a tribunal of
5 this state shall recognize and enforce, but may not modify, a registered order if the
6 issuing tribunal had jurisdiction.

7 Sec. 25.25.604. CHOICE OF LAW. (a) The law of the issuing state governs
8 the nature, extent, amount, and duration of current payments and other obligations of
9 support and the payment of arrearages under the order.

10 (b) In a proceeding for arrearages, the statute of limitation under the laws of
11 this state or of the issuing state, whichever is longer, applies.

12 Sec. 25.25.605. NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF ORDER. (a) When a
13 support order or income withholding order issued in another state is registered, the
14 registering tribunal shall notify the nonregistering party. Notice shall be given by first
15 class, certified, or registered mail or by any means of personal service authorized by
16 the law of this state. The notice must be accompanied by a copy of the registered
17 order and the documents and relevant information accompanying the order.

18 (b) The notice must inform the nonregistering party

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

21 (2) that a hearing to contest the validity or enforcement of the
22 registered order must be requested within 20 days after the date of mailing or personal
23 service of the notice;

24 (3) that failure to contest the validity or enforcement of the registered
25 order in a timely manner will result in confirmation of the order and enforcement of
26 the order and the alleged arrearages and precludes further contest of that order with
27 respect to any matter that could have been asserted; and

28 (4) of the amount of alleged arrearages.

29 (c) Upon registration of an income withholding order for enforcement, the
30 registering tribunal shall notify the obligor's employer under AS 25.27.

31 Sec. 25.25.606. PROCEDURE TO CONTEST VALIDITY OR

*Registration
& Contest
of Validity
of
Registered
Order*

1 ENFORCEMENT OF REGISTERED ORDER. (a) A nonregistering party seeking
2 to contest the validity or enforcement of a registered order in this state shall request
3 a hearing within 20 days after the date of mailing or personal service of notice of the
4 registration. The nonregistering party may seek to vacate the registration, to assert a
5 defense to an allegation of noncompliance with the registered order, or to contest the
6 remedies being sought or the amount of alleged arrearages under AS 25.25.607.

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

9 (c) If a nonregistering party requests a hearing to contest the validity or
10 enforcement of the registered order, the registering tribunal shall schedule the matter
11 for hearing and give notice to the parties by first class mail of the date, time, and place
12 of the hearing.

13 Sec. 25.25.607. CONTEST OF REGISTRATION OR ENFORCEMENT. (a)
14 A party contesting the validity or enforcement of a registered order or seeking to
15 vacate the registration has the burden of proving one or more of the following
16 defenses:

- 17 (1) the issuing tribunal lacked personal jurisdiction over the contesting
18 party;
- 19 (2) the order was obtained by fraud;
- 20 (3) the order has been vacated, suspended, or modified by a later order;
- 21 (4) the issuing tribunal has stayed the order pending appeal;
- 22 ~~5~~ (5) there is a defense under the law of this state to the remedy sought;
- 23 (6) full or partial payment has been made; or
- 24 (7) the statute of limitation under AS 25.25.604 precludes enforcement
25 of some or all of the arrearages.

26 (b) If a party presents evidence establishing a full or partial defense under (a)
27 of this section, the tribunal may stay enforcement of the registered order, continue the
28 proceeding to permit production of additional relevant evidence, and issue other
29 appropriate orders. An uncontested portion of the registered order may be enforced
30 by all remedies available under the law of this state.

31 (c) If the contesting party does not establish a defense under (a) of this section

1 to the validity or enforcement of the order, the registering tribunal shall issue an order
2 confirming the order.

3 Sec. 25.25.608. CONFIRMED ORDER. Confirmation of a registered order,
4 whether by operation of law or after notice and hearing, precludes further contest of
5 the order with respect to a matter that could have been asserted at the time of
6 registration.

7 Sec. 25.25.609. PROCEDURE TO REGISTER CHILD SUPPORT ORDER OF
8 ANOTHER STATE FOR MODIFICATION. If a party or the child support
9 enforcement agency seeks to modify, or to modify and enforce, a child support order
10 issued in another state but not registered in this state, the party or agency shall register
11 that order in this state in the same manner provided in AS 25.25.601 - 25.25.604. A
12 complaint for modification may be filed at the same time as a request for registration,
13 or later. The pleading must specify the grounds for modification.

14 Sec. 25.25.610. EFFECT OF REGISTRATION FOR MODIFICATION. A
15 tribunal of this state may enforce a child support order of another state registered for
16 purposes of modification in the same manner as if the order had been issued by a
17 tribunal of this state, but the registered order may be modified only if the requirements
18 of AS 25.25.611 have been met.

19 Sec. 25.25.611. MODIFICATION OF CHILD SUPPORT ORDER OF ~~ANOTHER STATE~~
20 ANOTHER STATE. (a) After a child support order issued in another state has been
21 registered in this state, the responding tribunal of this state may modify that order only
22 if, after notice and an opportunity for hearing, it finds that

23 (1) the following requirements are met:

24 (A) the child, the individual obligee, and the obligor do not
25 reside in the issuing state;

26 (B) a petitioner who is not a resident of this state seeks
27 modification and

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

30 (2) an individual party or the child is subject to the personal jurisdiction
31 of the tribunal and all of the individual parties have filed a written consent in the

1 issuing tribunal providing that a tribunal of this state may modify the support order and
2 assume continuing, exclusive jurisdiction over the order.

3 (b) Modification of a registered child support order is subject to the same
4 requirements, procedures, and defenses that apply to the modification of an order
5 issued by a tribunal of this state and the order may be enforced and satisfied in the
6 same manner.

7 (c) A tribunal of this state may not modify any aspect of a child support order
8 that may not be modified under the law of the issuing state.

9 (d) On issuance of an order modifying a child support order issued in another
10 state, a tribunal of this state becomes the tribunal of continuing, exclusive jurisdiction.

11 (e) Within 30 days after issuance of a modified child support order, the party
12 obtaining the modification shall file a certified copy of the order with the issuing
13 tribunal that had continuing, exclusive jurisdiction over the earlier order and in each
14 tribunal in which the party knows that an earlier order has been registered.

15 Sec. 25.25.612. RECOGNITION OF ORDER MODIFIED IN ANOTHER
16 STATE. A tribunal of this state shall recognize a modification of its earlier child
17 support order by a tribunal of another state that assumed jurisdiction under a law
18 substantially similar to this chapter and, upon request, except as otherwise provided
19 in this chapter, shall

20 (1) enforce the order that was modified only as to amounts accruing
21 before the modification;

22 (2) enforce only nonmodifiable aspects of that order;

23 (3) provide other appropriate relief only for violations of that order that
24 occurred before the effective date of the modification; and

25 (4) recognize the modifying order of the other state, upon registration,
26 for the purpose of enforcement.

27 ARTICLE 7. DETERMINATION OF PARENTAGE.

28 Sec. 25.25.701. PROCEEDING TO DETERMINE PARENTAGE. (a) A
29 tribunal of this state may serve as an initiating or responding tribunal in a proceeding
30 brought under this chapter or a law substantially similar to this chapter, the former
31 provisions of this chapter, the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act, or the

1 Revised Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act to determine whether the
2 petitioner is a parent of a particular child or to determine whether a respondent is a
3 parent of that child.

4 (b) In a proceeding to determine parentage, a responding tribunal of this state
5 shall apply the procedural and substantive law of this state and the rules of this state
6 on choice of law. } *Choice of Law*

7 ARTICLE 8. INTERSTATE RENDITION.

8 Sec. 25.25.801. GROUNDS FOR RENDITION. (a) The governor or a
9 designee of the governor may

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

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

16 (b) A provision for extradition of individuals not inconsistent with this chapter
17 applies to the demand even if the individual whose surrender is demanded was not in
18 the demanding state when the crime was allegedly committed and has not fled from
19 that state.

20 Sec. 25.25.802. CONDITIONS OF RENDITION. (a) Before making demand
21 that the governor of another state surrender an individual charged criminally in this
22 state with having failed to provide for the support of an obligee, the governor of this
23 state or the designee of the governor may require a prosecutor of this state to
24 demonstrate that the obligee had initiated proceedings for support under this chapter
25 at least 60 days previously or that the proceeding would be of no avail.

26 (b) If, under this chapter or a law substantially similar to this chapter, the
27 former provisions of this chapter, the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act,
28 or the Revised Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act, the governor of
29 another state makes a demand that the governor of this state surrender an individual
30 charged criminally in that state with having failed to provide for the support of a child
31 or other individual to whom a duty of support is owed, the governor or a designee of

1 the governor may require a prosecutor to investigate the demand and report whether
2 a proceeding for support has been initiated or would be effective. If it appears that a
3 proceeding would be effective but has not been initiated, the governor or designee may
4 delay honoring the demand for a reasonable time to permit the initiation of a
5 proceeding.

6 (c) If a proceeding for support has been initiated and the individual whose
7 rendition is demanded prevails, the governor or the designee of the governor may
8 decline to honor the demand. If the petitioner prevails and the individual whose
9 rendition is demanded is subject to a support order, the governor or designee may
10 decline to honor the demand if the individual is complying with the support order.

11 ARTICLE 9. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

12 Sec. 25.25.901. UNIFORMITY OF APPLICATION AND CONSTRUCTION.
13 This chapter shall be applied and construed to effectuate its general purpose to make
14 uniform the law with respect to the subject of this chapter among states enacting it.

15 Sec. 25.25.902. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. Under AS 01.10.030, if a
16 provision of this chapter or its application to a person or circumstance is held invalid,
17 the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this chapter that can
18 be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

19 Sec. 25.25.903. SHORT TITLE. This chapter may be cited as the Uniform
20 Interstate Family Support Act.

21 * Sec. 4. AS 25.27.020(a) is amended to read: CSEA

22 (a) The agency shall

23 (1) seek enforcement of child support orders of the superior courts of
24 the state in other jurisdictions and shall obtain, enforce, and administer the orders in
25 this state;

26 (2) adopt regulations to carry out the purposes of this chapter and
27 AS 25.25, including regulations that establish

28 (A) schedules for determining the amount an obligor is liable
29 to contribute toward the support of an obligee under this chapter and under 42
30 U.S.C. 651 - 669 (Title IV-D, Social Security Act);

31 (B) procedures for hearings conducted under AS 25.27.170; and

1 (C) subject to AS 25.27.025 and to federal law, a uniform rate
2 of interest on arrearages of support that shall be charged the obligor upon
3 notice if child support payments are 10 or more days overdue or if payment is
4 made by a check backed by insufficient funds; however, an obligor may not be
5 charged interest on late payment of a child support obligation, other than a
6 payment on arrearages, if the obligor is

7 (i) employed and income is being withheld from the
8 obligor's wages under an income withholding order;

9 (ii) receiving unemployment compensation and child
10 support obligations are being withheld from the obligor's unemployment
11 payments under AS 23.20.401; or

12 (iii) receiving compensation for disabilities under
13 AS 23.30 and child support obligations are being withheld from the
14 obligor's compensation payments;

15 (3) administer and enforce AS 25.25 (Uniform Interstate Family
16 [RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT OF] Support Act);

17 (4) establish, enforce, and administer child support obligations
18 administratively under this chapter;

19 (5) administer the state plan required under 42 U.S.C. 651 - 669 (Title
20 IV-D, Social Security Act) as amended;

21 (6) disburse support payments collected by the agency to the obligee,
22 together with interest charged under (2)(C) of this subsection;

23 (7) establish and enforce administratively under this chapter, or through
24 the superior courts of the state, child support orders from other jurisdictions pertaining
25 to obligors within the state;

26 (8) enforce and administer spousal support orders if a spousal support
27 obligation has been established with respect to the spouse and if the support obligation
28 established with respect to the child of that spouse is also being administered; and

29 (9) obtain a medical support order as part of a child support order if
30 health care coverage is available to the obligor at a reasonable cost; the agency shall
31 consider whether adequate health care is available to the child through the Indian

1 Health Service or other insurance coverage before it orders an obligor to provide health
2 care coverage through insurance or other means; the medical support order must meet
3 the requirements of AS 25.27.063; and

4 (10) act on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Services in
5 the enforcement of AS 47.07.025(b).

6 * Sec. 5. AS 25.25.010, 25.25.020, 25.25.030, 25.25.040, 25.25.050, 25.25.060, 25.25.070,
7 25.25.080, 25.25.090, 25.25.100, 25.25.110, 25.25.120, 25.25.130, 25.25.140, 25.25.150,
8 25.25.160, 25.25.170, 25.25.171, 25.25.173, 25.25.175, 25.25.180, 25.25.190, 25.25.200,
9 25.25.210, 25.25.220, 25.25.230, 25.25.240, 25.25.250, 25.25.252, 25.25.254, 25.25.256,
10 25.25.258, 25.25.260, and 25.25.270 are repealed.

11 * Sec. 6. AS 25.25.313(c), added by sec. 3 of this Act, has the effect of amending Alaska
12 Rules of Civil Procedure 79 and 82, by requiring the court to award costs and attorney fees
13 under certain circumstances.

14 * Sec. 7. AS 25.25.313(c), added by sec. 3 of this Act, takes effect January 1, 1996, only
15 if AS 25.25.313(c) receives the two-thirds majority vote of each house required by art. IV,
16 sec. 15, Constitution of the State of Alaska.

17 * Sec. 8. Except as provided in sec. 7 of this Act, this Act takes effect January 1, 1996.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

PLEASE REPLY TO:

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100 CUSHMAN ST., SUITE 400
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FAX: (907) 451-2846
- P.O. BOX 110300-DIMOND COURT HOUSE
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0300
PHONE: (907) 465-3600
FAX: (907) 465-6735

March 8, 1995

Honorable Brian Porter, Chair
House Judiciary
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 118
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RECEIVED

APR 24 1995

Rep. Brian Porter

Re: HB 242

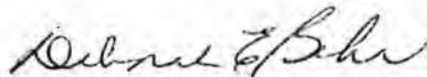
Dear Representative Porter:

We note that HB 242 (Uniform Interstate Family Support Act) is scheduled for hearing this week. Marilyn May from our Anchorage office will be available to provide testimony. She will be recommending a technical change to the bill as discussed in the attached letter.

We appreciate your scheduling this important bill for hearing.

Sincerely,

BRUCE M. BOTELHO
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By: 
Deborah E. Behr
Assistant Attorney General

DEB:cl

cc: All Alaska Uniform Law Commissioners

Hon. Brian Porter, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

April 24, 1995
Page 2

Pat Pourchot, Legislative Director
Office of the Governor

Bob Baratko, Legislative Liaison
Department of Revenue

Elmer Lindstrom, Legislative Liaison
Department of Health and Social Services

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

March 21, 1995

The Honorable Lyda Green
Alaska State Senate
Chairman, Senate Health, Education and Social Services Committee
P. O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: SB 115 An endment

Dear Senator Green:

I am the assistant attorney general who was charged with drafting the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act introduced as Senate Bill 115 (and House Bill 242). In reviewing the bill, we have determined that it would be preferable to allow the Supreme Court the opportunity to amend its own administrative rules, in order to avoid any potential separation of powers issue. Therefore we recommend deleting the reference to Alaska Rule of Administration 9 in the title of the bill, and deleting sec. 6 of the bill in its entirety. The change also would require conforming amendments in sec. 8 of the bill and the renumbering of bill sections.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this proposed amendment.

Sincerely,

BRUCE BOTELHO
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By: Marilyn May
Marilyn May
Assistant Attorney General

MM:bld

cc: Bruce M. Botelho, Attorney General
Karen Perdue, Commissioner, Department of Health and Social Services
Wilson Condon, Commissioner, Department of Revenue
Pat Pourchot, Legislative Director
Deborah Behr, Assistant Attorney General

file
TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

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STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

March 6, 1995

The Honorable Gail Phillips
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Phillips:

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act and the repeal of the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act.

The bill would repeal the laws currently found in AS 25.25, the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act (URESAs), and replace them with a new Uniform Act, the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA), with minor modifications. The bill also has the effect of amending Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure 79 and 82, and Alaska Rule of Administration 9. See secs. 6 and 7 of the bill. Under art. IV, sec. 15, of the Alaska Constitution, the legislature may change a court rule governing "practice and procedure." Although the bill has the effect of amending a court rule relating to filing fees that is designated as an "administrative" rule, I believe that the rule affects individuals' substantive rights regarding access to our justice system and, therefore, is one that the legislature is authorized to change. Additionally, the provision that has the effect of amending the administrative rule is an integral part of UIFSA.

The Uniform Interstate Family Support Act was drafted to update URESAs. The bill, like URESAs, applies to those actions relating to the establishment, modification, and enforcement of support orders and the determination of parentage in situations in which the parties reside in more than one state.

* A major feature of UIFSA is that it does not require reciprocity of laws between states in order to take action under its provisions. In order to ease the transition between URESAs and UIFSA, the bill recognizes substantially similar state laws as equivalent to UIFSA for

TONY KNOWLES
GOVERNOR

The Honorable Gail Phillips

March 6, 1995

Page 2



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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purposes of interstate actions. See proposed AS 25.25.101(7) and (16) in sec. 1 of the bill. The bill also contains its own long-arm jurisdiction provision providing the home state of a supported family the maximum possible opportunity to secure personal jurisdiction over an absent parent.

The bill promotes, to the extent possible, the premise of continuing exclusive jurisdiction over support orders. Under the law as it exists under URESA, multiple orders for child support often result. UIFSA seeks to limit the existence of multiple support orders by limiting the circumstances under which subsequent support orders may be entered in states other than the initiating state.

The bill also recognizes the growing use of administrative procedures in addition to or in place of judicial proceedings in the establishment of paternity and the establishment and enforcement of support orders.

UIFSA was prepared by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, which has approved and recommended it for enactment in all the states. Although it was first adopted by that conference in the summer of 1992, it has already been enacted in 21 states. There are indications that it will be introduced in as many as eight states this year. It has been endorsed by the United States Commission on Interstate Child Support, the American Bar Association, and the Conference of Chief Justices, and the bill has the support of Alaska's child support enforcement agency. Additional information from the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws is available from my staff.

I urge your prompt consideration and passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tony Knowles".

Tony Knowles
Governor

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A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

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April 25, 1995

Hon. Cynthia Toohey, Co-chair
Hon. Con Bunde, Co-chair
House Health, Education, and
Social Services Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

HAND-DELIVERED

Re: HB 242, Uniform Interstate Family Support Act

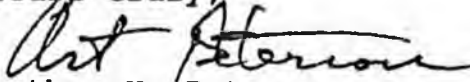
Dear Representatives Toohey and Bunde:

In connection with the hearing on HB 242, scheduled for later today in your committee, you will find attached an amendment sheet containing the technical amendments for this bill.

These amendments merely address the fact that the Alaska Supreme Court has recently amended its Administrative Rule 9 in the manner proposed by this bill. The bill should not include the references to that rule.

As mentioned in my March 10, 1995 letter to you, HB 242 is designed to achieve a more efficient, fairer system for all concerned -- the obligee, the obligor, the courts, and the agency. I urge your committee's "Do Pass" recommendation.

Yours truly,


Arthur H. Peterson
Uniform Law Commissioner
for Alaska

cc: Hon. Wilson Condon, Commissioner
Department of Revenue

Hon. Karen Perdue, Commissioner
Department of Health & Social Services

Patrick Pourchot, Legis. Director
Governor's Office

Rest of Alaska's ULC Delegation

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

BY THE HESS COMMITTEE

TO: HB 242

1 Page 1, line 3:

2 Delete "amending Alaska Rule of Administration 9;".

3 Page 26, lines 13 -- 15:

4 Delete all of Section 6.

5 Page 26, line 16:

6 Change "* Sec. 7" to read "* Sec. 6."

7 Page 26, line 19:

8 Change "* Sec. 8" to read "* Sec. 7."

9 Delete "25.25.313(a) and" and change "take" to read "takes."

10 Page 26, line 20:

11 Delete "25.25.313(a) and" and change "receive" to read
12 "receives."

13 Page 26, line 22:

14 Change "* Sec. 9" to read "* Sec. 8," and change "sec. 8" to
15 read "sec. 7."

16

#

Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA)
HB 242 - SB 115

UIFSA provides improved procedures for establishing, modifying and enforcing child support orders where the obligor and the obligee reside in different states. Interstate cases represent about 44% of Alaska's child support caseload. UIFSA has already been enacted by at least 21 states and may soon be required for continued federal funding.

This bill promotes efficiency and minimizes confusion, and should therefore result in additional child support collections. UIFSA:

- Eliminates the multiple-order system existing under current law, whereby two or more states may each establish and enforce different child support judgments. UIFSA instead provides for one state to have "continuing, exclusive jurisdiction" and sets out the means for determining which state has that jurisdiction.
- Recognizes the speed and efficiency of administrative action by allowing the support enforcement agency to establish paternity and to establish, modify or enforce a child support order without having to go through a court.
- Provides broad long arm jurisdiction to reach out-of-state obligors to allow the forum state to obtain as much jurisdiction as is constitutionally permissible.
- Promotes efficiency by providing for use of federal forms in all interstate cases; exchange of child support information through an interstate computer network; taking of testimony by telephone; electronic transmission of documentary evidence; and special evidentiary rules to speed the introduction of evidence in support cases.
- Allows direct income withholding -- a support order may be mailed directly to an obligor's employer in another state, requiring immediate wage withholding, without first having a support hearing in that state (the obligor has the right to object and request a hearing).

UIFSA represents a dramatic improvement over the sometimes haphazard or even chaotic circumstances surrounding child support orders under Alaska's current interstate support law, the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act (URESAs). The elimination of the multiple-order scenario alone justifies passage of UIFSA; that along with the many other benefits should assure widespread support among both obligees and obligors.

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Peter K. Puttier

March 10, 1995

Hon. Cynthia Toohey, Co-chair
Hon. Con Bunde, Co-chair
House Health, Education, and
Social Services Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

HAND-DELIVERED

Re: HB 242, Uniform Interstate Family Support Act

Dear Representatives Toohey and Bunde:

HB 242 has been referred to your committee, and I request that you schedule an early hearing on it. I urge a "Do Pass" report.

This bill proposes the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA), which is a product of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL). It was promulgated in 1992 for the purpose of updating and replacing the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act (URESA) -- also a NCCUSL product.

All 50 states plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U. S. Virgin Islands enacted URESA. Already, at least 21 of those jurisdictions have repealed it and enacted UIFSA.

Eventually, for the protection of its people, especially its children, Alaska will have to enact UIFSA. We gain nothing by delay.

The most significant single point of this bill is its virtual elimination of the possibility of multi-state jurisdiction and conflicting support orders. That current flaw in URESA has been the bane of both obligees and obligors, as well as of the state agencies and courts charged with administering the old Act. The expected result of the new Act is a system that is more efficient and cheaper to operate, and more easily understood and fairer to the parties involved in the process, thus producing a much higher level of meeting family support obligations.

UIFSA addresses other URESA problems too, generally updating

SUPPORT

Reps. Toohy & Bunde, Co-chairs, House HESS Com.
Uniform Interstate Family Support Act
March 10, 1995

Page 2

and improving the law. For example, it adapts the traditional "long arm" jurisdiction concept to this family support context.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and this request.

Let me know if you want additional material on UIFSA.

Yours truly,



Arthur H. Peterson
Uniform Law Commissioner
for Alaska

cc: Hon. Wilson Condon, Commissioner
Department of Revenue

Hon. Karen Perdue, Commissioner
Department of Health & Social Services

Patrick Pourchot, Legis. Director
Governor's Office

Rest of Alaska's ULC Delegation:

Hon. Jay A. Rabinowitz
W. Grant Callow, Esq.
Tamara Brandt Cook, Esq.
L. S. Kurtz, Jr., Esq.
Deborah E. Behr, Esq.

Revision Date: _____
Title: Uniform Interstate Support Act (UIFSA)
Sponsor: Rules
Requestor: Governor

Department Affected: Revenue
BRU: Child Support Enforcement Division
Component: Child Support Enforcement Division
COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 111

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	170.0	340.0	340.0	340.0	340.0	340.0
------------------------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

FUND SOURCE: (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
OTHER						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY 95) cost: \$ 0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary):

UIFSA applies to those actions relating to establishment, modification, and enforcement of support orders and the determining of parentage in situations where the parties reside in more than one state. The passage of this bill will improve service to case parties involved in interstate enforcement of child support orders by clarifying which state has jurisdiction. It authorizes the movement to a one order system for child support obligations that is honored by all states which pass UIFSA. UIFSA reduces agency response time in some areas in an effort to provide support collections sooner. AFDC collections will be increased by \$680,000 per year of which the state retains 50% or \$340,000. Since the effective date of the legislation in January, 1996 it would provide only \$170,000 for that fiscal year.

Prepared by: Glenda Straube
Division: Child Support Enforcement

Phone: 269-6801
Date: March 3, 1995

Approved by Commissioner: Deborah Voigt
Agency: Department of Revenue

Date: March 3, 1995

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STATE OF ALASKA
1995 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

FISCAL NOTE

Bill Version: HB 242
(H) Publish Date: 3/8/95

Revision Date: _____ Dept. Affected: Health and Social Services
 Title: Uniform Interstate Family Support Act BRU: Assistance Payments
 Sponsor: Rules Component: AFDC
 Requestor: Governor COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 228

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01
PERSONAL SERVICES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TRAVEL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CONTRACTUAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SUPPLIES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EQUIPMENT	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CHANGES IN REVENUES	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	(170.0)	(340.0)	(340.0)	(340.0)	(340.0)	(340.0)
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	170.0	340.0	340.0	340.0	340.0	340.0
1006 GF/MHTIA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of any current year (FY95) cost: \$ NONE

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The Child Support Enforcement Division projects increased collections on behalf of AFDC children to result from this legislation. This analysis is based on CSED's projections in their fiscal note on this legislation.

Fifty percent of child support collected on behalf of AFDC children is retained by the state. These revenues are transferred as GF Program Receipts to the AFDC component of the Assistance Payments bill. These GF Program Receipts are used in place of GF Match funds.

Prepared by: Jim Nordlund, Director *for Ralynn, acting dir* Phone: 465-2680
 Division: Division of Public Assistance Date: 3/2/95
 Approved by Com: Karen Perdue Date: _____
 Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

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COMMITTEE COPY

FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: 3/3/95 Dept. Affected: Community & Regional Affairs
 Title: An Act relating to the establishment, modification, and enforcement of support orders... BRU: none
 Component: none
 Sponsor: Governor
 Requestor: Governor COMPONENT SERIAL NO. _____

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
---------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

REVENUE FUND SOURCE:						
----------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current (FY94) impact \$ none

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

There is no fiscal impact on DCRA from this bill.

Prepared by: Remond Henderson, Director *Remond Henderson* Phone: 465-4708
 Division: Division of Administrative Services Date: 3/3/95
 Approved by Commissioner: *Thibe Arwin* Date: 3/3/95
 Agency: Community & Regional Affairs

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FISCAL NOTE

No. 1
 Bill Version: HB 242
 (H) Publish Date: 3/8/95

STATE OF ALASKA
 1995 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: _____ Dept. Affected: Department of Law
 Title: ... establishment, modification, and enforcement BRU: Legal Services
of support orders in situations involving more than one state... Component: Operations
 Sponsor: Rules by Request of the Governor
 Requester: Office of the Governor: OMB COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 0093

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
----------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

FUND SOURCE	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY95) cost: \$ 0.0

POSITIONS

POSITIONS	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01
FULL-TIME	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill repeals the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act (URESAs), under AS 25.25, and replaces it with a new uniform Act known as the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA). First adopted by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws in 1992, the new Act has already been enacted by 21 states, and it may be introduced in as many as eight states this year, including Alaska.

The Uniform Interstate Family Support Act was drafted to update USERA. UIFSA, like USERA, applies to those actions relating to the establishment, modification, and enforcement of support orders and the determination of parentage in situations in which the parties reside in more than one state.

A major feature of UIFSA is that it does not require reciprocity of laws between states in order to take action under its provisions. The new Act also contains its own long-arm jurisdiction provision providing the home state of a supported family the maximum possible opportunity to secure personal jurisdiction over an absent parent.

The bill promotes, to the extent possible, the premise of continuing exclusive jurisdiction over support orders. Under the law as it exists under URESAs, multiple orders for child support often result. UIFSA seeks

Prepared by: Richard I. Pegues, Director Phone: 465-3672
 Division: Administrative Services Division Date: 3/3/95
 Approved by Commissioner: Bruce M. Botelho, Attorney General Date: 3/3/95
 Agency: Department of Law

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FISCAL NOTE

HR 402

STATE OF ALASKA
1995 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. _____

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION:

to limit the existence of multiple support orders by limiting the circumstances under which subsequent support orders may be entered in states other than the initiating state.

The bill also recognizes the growing use of administrative procedures in addition to or in place of judicial proceedings in the establishment of paternity and the establishment and enforcement of support orders.

The Uniform Interstate Family Support Act has been endorsed by the United States Commission on Interstate Child Support, the American Bar Association, and the Conference of Chief Justices.

The Department of Law is substantially involved in child support matters on behalf of the Child Support Enforcement Division, and the department provides all of the legal assistance required by the division. It is anticipated the department will have to provide additional legal advice and guidance to the division in implementing the provisions of UIFSA at the early stage. However, because the new Act provides several new efficiencies, this additional work will be easily offset by those efficiencies. Consequently, no fiscal impact is expected for the Department of Law.

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April 25, 1995

Hon. Cynthia Toohey, Co-chair
Hon. Con Bunde, Co-chair
House Health, Education, and
Social Services Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

HAND-DELIVERED

Re: HB 242, Uniform Interstate Family Support Act

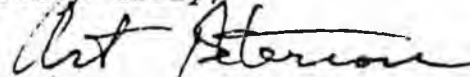
Dear Representatives Toohey and Bunde:

In connection with the hearing on HB 242, scheduled for later today in your committee, you will find attached an amendment sheet containing the technical amendments for this bill.

These amendments merely address the fact that the Alaska Supreme Court has recently amended its Administrative Rule 9 in the manner proposed by this bill. The bill should not include the references to that rule.

As mentioned in my March 10, 1995 letter to you, HB 242 is designed to achieve a more efficient, fairer system for all concerned -- the obligee, the obligor, the courts, and the agency. I urge your committee's "Do Pass" recommendation.

Yours truly,


Arthur H. Peterson
Uniform Law Commissioner
for Alaska

cc: Hon. Wilson Condon, Commissioner
Department of Revenue

Hon. Karen Perdue, Commissioner
Department of Health & Social Services

Patrick Pourchot, Legis. Director
Governor's Office

Rest of Alaska's ULC Delegation

(7)

Date Referred: March 8, 1995

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Judiciary
Finance

Date of Committee Action: 4/27/95

The HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES Committee considered:

HB 242

HOUSE BILL NO. 242

UNIFORM INTERSTATE FAMILY SUPPORT ACT

"An Act relating to the establishment, modification, and enforcement of support orders and the determination of parentage in situations involving more than one state; amending Alaska Rule of Administration 9; amending Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure 79 and 82; and providing for an effective date."

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute CS HB 242 (HES) the same title a new title

additional referral to _____ Committee
 attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: _____ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

fiscal note(s) _____

fiscal note(s) Revenue, H+SS

zero fiscal note(s) _____

zero fiscal note(s) C+R A, Law

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS	DP	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Wendy P. Kelly</i>	✓			
<i>Tommy D. Day</i>			✓	
<i>Alan Bunde</i>	✓			
<i>Robert A. ...</i>	✓			
<i>Robert A. ...</i>	✓			
<i>Tom Brier</i>	✓			

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE *[Signature]*

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred: March 8, 1995

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Judiciary
Finance

Date of Committee Action: 4/27/95

The HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES Committee considered:

HB 242

HOUSE BILL NO. 242

UNIFORM INTERSTATE FAMILY SUPPORT ACT

"An Act relating to the establishment, modification, and enforcement of support orders and the determination of parentage in situations involving more than one state; amending Alaska Rule of Administration 9; amending Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure 79 and 82; and providing for an effective date."

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute CS HB 242 (HES) the same title a new title

additional referral to _____ Committee
 attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: _____ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

fiscal note(s) _____

fiscal note(s) Revenue, H+SS

zero fiscal note(s) _____

zero fiscal note(s) C+R A, Law

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS	DP	DNP	NR	AM
<i>W. J. Pataly</i>	✓			
<i>Tommy Dargatzis</i>			✓	
<i>Alan Burdick</i>	✓			
<i>Robert J. ...</i>	✓			
<i>Robert ...</i>	✓			
<i>Tom Bruce</i>	✓			

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE *[Signature]*

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

March 21, 1995

The Honorable Cynthia Toohey
The Honorable Con Bunde
Alaska House of Representatives
Co-Chairmen, Health, Education and Social Services Committee
P. O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: HB 242 Amendment

Dear Representatives Toohey and Bunde:

I am the assistant attorney general who was charged with drafting the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act introduced as House Bill 242 (and Senate Bill 115). In reviewing the bill, we have determined that it would be preferable to allow the Supreme Court the opportunity to amend its own administrative rules, in order to avoid any potential separation of powers issue. Therefore we recommend deleting the reference to Alaska Rule of Administration 9 in the title of the bill, and deleting sec. 6 of the bill in its entirety. The change also would require conforming amendments in sec. 8 of the bill and the renumbering of bill sections.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this proposed amendment.

Sincerely,

BRUCE BOTELHO
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By: Marilyn May
Marilyn May
Assistant Attorney General

MM:bld

cc: Bruce M. Botelho, Attorney General
Karen Perdue, Commissioner, Department of Health and Social Services
Wilson Condon, Commissioner, Department of Revenue
Pat Pourchot, Legislative Director
Deborah Behr, Assistant Attorney General

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

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Department of Law

MAR 22 1995
AM 8 9 10 11 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 PM

Following is a sectional analysis of HB 242, the 1992 Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA). This bill replaces the old uniform law, known as the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act (URESAs), found at AS 25.25.010 - 25.25.270. This bill provides improved procedures for establishing, modifying and enforcing child support orders where the obligor and the obligee reside in different states. Interstate cases represent about 44% of Alaska's child support caseload. Twenty-three states have adopted the new uniform law.

① single state juris
 ② means to determine juris

Perhaps the most important feature of UIFSA is that it does away with the current system allowing multiple child support orders in various jurisdictions, opting instead for a single order system. Under UIFSA, one state maintains "continuing, exclusive jurisdiction" over the child support order; the bill provides the means to determine which state has that jurisdiction (sec. 2). Other changes include: allowing the support enforcement agency to establish paternity and to establish, modify or enforce a child support order administratively (sec. 3); allowing direct income withholding so that a support order may be mailed directly to the obligor's employer in another state (sec. 3); providing broad long arm jurisdiction to reach out-of-state obligors (sec. 2); allowing testimony to be taken by telephone (sec. 3); allowing electronic transmission of documentary evidence (sec. 3); and providing special evidentiary rules to speed the introduction of evidence in support cases (sec. 3). A section-by-section analysis of the bill follows:

— Juris
 ③ Agency determination of paternity
 ④ Direct w/holding from obligor
 ⑤ long arm juris

Sec. 1. This section contains the definitions used in UIFSA, and provides that remedies provided by UIFSA are cumulative to other remedies available under other law. It is important to note that the definition for "tribunal" includes the child support enforcement agency as well as the courts.

Sec. 2. The long arm jurisdiction provided by this section is intended to be as broad as is constitutionally permissible. When exercising long arm jurisdiction, Alaska's tribunal may apply UIFSA's evidence and discovery rules, but in all other respects, the tribunal applies the procedural and substantive law of Alaska. When simultaneous proceedings have begun in Alaska and in another state, the child's home state generally will be allowed to exercise jurisdiction to establish a support order. Once Alaska enters a child support order, it is the only body entitled to modify it so long as it retains "continuing, exclusive jurisdiction," i.e., so long as the obligor, the obligee, or the child remains a resident of this state, or if all parties file written consent to have another state modify the order and assume continuing, exclusive jurisdiction. An Alaskan tribunal must recognize the continuing, exclusive jurisdiction of another UIFSA state and may not modify its own order if a tribunal of another UIFSA state has acquired continuing, exclusive jurisdiction. This section sets out the means to determine which of two or more child support orders issued in other states should be recognized. When two or more request to enforce child support orders for the same obligor with multiple obligees are received, a tribunal is to enforce them in the same manner as if all orders were issued by an Alaskan tribunal. Amounts collected under another state's order are credited against amounts accrued for the same period under an Alaskan tribunal's order.

* Sec. 3. Orders for spousal support and child support are generally dealt with identically, although only child support orders may be modified by a state which did not issue it. This section sets out the requirements and procedure for a request that another state enforce an Alaskan order, as well as the powers and procedure of an Alaskan tribunal responding to another state's request

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Fax #		Fax #			

that it enforce the other state's order. When acting as a responding tribunal, Alaska law applies. The duties of the child support enforcement agency (CSED) are specified, in connection with assisting a petitioner, and in acting as the state information and locator agency. The agency may not disclose identifying information if the health, safety, or liberty of a party or child would be put at risk by disclosure and as provided in existing law. Special rules of evidence are set out which allow documentary evidence to be admitted more easily and allow transmission of such evidence by electronic means. Telephonic participation in proceedings is expressly allowed. Refusal to answer on the grounds the testimony might be self-incriminating may be given an adverse inference, and there is no spousal communication privilege, or spousal or parent-child immunity in these proceedings. An Alaskan tribunal may cooperate in providing discovery to another state or by compelling a resident to respond to a discovery request of another state's tribunal.

An income withholding order from another state may be sent directly to an Alaskan employer, who must treat it as if it had been issued by a tribunal of this state. Child support orders from other states' tribunals may be enforced administratively. If the obligor contests administrative enforcement, the order must be registered. This section sets out the procedures for and effect of registration. Notice of the registration must be sent to the nonregistering party, who has an opportunity to contest the validity or enforcement of the order. Choice of law is determined under this section.

An interstate proceeding to determine paternity may be handled administratively or by a court. A state may demand the extradition of a person who is charged with criminal nonsupport.

Sec. 4. Technical amendments.

Sec. 5. Repeals the old uniform act.

Sec. 6. Amends Alaska Administrative Rule 9 regarding filing fees. *out*

Sec. 7. Amends Civil Rules 79 and 82 by requiring the court to award costs and attorney's fees under certain circumstances.

Sec. 8. Requires a supermajority vote to amend a court rule.

Sec. 9. Effective date of January 1, 1996 is set to allow sufficient time for adoption of implementing regulations.



State of Alaska
ombudsman
A Legislative Service Agency

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R E C E I V E D
APR 17 1995

April 14, 1995

Rep. Brian Porter

The Honorable Brian Porter, Chairman
House Committee on Judiciary
Alaska Legislature
State Capitol, Room 118
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA)

Dear Chairman Porter:

The Office of the Ombudsman supports legislation to enact the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA). Two bills currently before the legislature, Senate Bill 115 and House Bill 242, as introduced, would accomplish that objective. Senate Bill 115 was approved by the Senate Health, Education & Social Services Committee at a hearing April 12, 1995. In the House, its companion, HB 242 has a first referral to the Health, Education & Social Services Committee, and a second referral to the House Judiciary Committee.

The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws drafted UIFSA to update the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act (URESA). UIFSA would allow Alaska maximum flexibility in securing personal jurisdiction over an absent parent and would apply to all actions relating to establishment, modification and enforcement of support orders and the determination of parentage in cases in which the parties reside in different states. This simplified process could mean more money for Alaskan parents to raise their children.

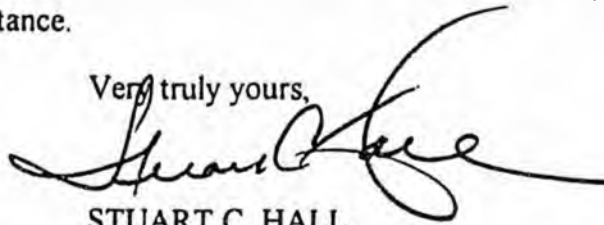
Enactment of UIFSA would assist many who have sought the Ombudsman's help with the Alaska Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED). In Fiscal Year 1994 and FY 1995, to date, the Ombudsman has assisted 1661 individuals with complaints against CSED, many of whom were custodial parents who depend upon CSED to collect child support from an out-of-state parent. A large number of those complaints came from single parents concerned about the slow pace of case establishment and child support collection. Enactment of UIFSA would streamline the establishment process which should, in turn, prompt speedier collections.

Both the state and custodial parents would benefit from enactment of UIFSA: the State of Alaska, because it could collect public assistance debts from absent parents, and custodial parents, because easier collection means money to raise their children. Perhaps more important, increased collections may help reduce the number of custodial parents forced to go on public assistance when there is no other source of support.

April 14, 1995

We urge your and your committee's favorable consideration of legislation that would codify UIFSA into Alaska law this session. Please feel free to call me at 465-4970 if my staff and I can be of further assistance.

Very truly yours,



STUART C. HALL
Ombudsman

cc: The Honorable Tony Knowles, Governor of Alaska
Att'n: Pat Pourchot, Legislative Director
Bruce M. Bothclo, Esq., Attorney General
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