

By Senator Diaz-Balart

37-797-00

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to child support guidelines;  
providing legislative intent; providing an  
effective date.

WHEREAS, the federal government requires states to have  
presumptive child support guidelines for use in determining the  
amount of child support awards, and

WHEREAS, the federal government also requires states to  
review their guidelines every 4 years to ensure that their  
application results in the determination of appropriate child  
support award amounts, and

WHEREAS, the determination of appropriate child support  
award amounts is becoming increasingly more difficult as a  
result of the increasing number of never-formed families,  
separated or divorced families, and blended families, and

WHEREAS, child support awards that are perceived to be  
appropriate and fair are more likely to be paid completely and  
in a timely fashion, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. The Legislature intends to provide the  
direction necessary to improve and facilitate the  
establishment of adequate and reasonable child support awards  
in this state, with the primary goal of improving  
opportunities for children. It is also the intent of the  
Legislature that, to the extent practicable, the laws of this  
state should encourage and require a child's parents to meet  
the obligation of providing that child with adequate food,  
shelter, clothing, education, health care, and child care.

1           Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
2 law.

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5                               SENATE SUMMARY

6           Expresses legislative intent to improve and facilitate  
7 the establishment of adequate and reasonable child  
8 support awards, and to encourage and require parents to  
9 provide their children with adequate food, shelter,  
10 clothing, education, health care, and child care.

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