Amendment No. $\underline{01}$ (for drafter's use only)

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11	The Committee on Child & Family Security offered the
12	following:
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14	Amendment to Amendment (862887) (with title amendment)
15	On page 1, line 1
16	remove: everything after the enacting clause
17	
18	and insert:
19 20	Section 1. Subsection (7) of section 39.502, Florida
21	Statues, is amended to read: (7) Service of the summons and service of pleadings,
22	papers, and notices subsequent to the summons on persons
23	outside this state must be made pursuant to section 9 of the
24	Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act s.
25	61.1312 .
26	Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
27	61.13, Florida Statutes, is amended to read and paragraph (e)
28	is created to read:
29	61.13 Custody and support of children; visitation
30	rights; power of court in making orders
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(b)1. The court shall determine all matters relating to custody of each minor child of the parties in accordance with the best interests of the child and in accordance with the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act. It is the public policy of this state to assure that each minor child has frequent and continuing contact with both parents after the parents separate or the marriage of the parties is dissolved and to encourage parents to share the rights and responsibilities, and joys, of childrearing. After considering all relevant facts, the father of the child shall be given the same consideration as the mother in determining the primary residence of a child irrespective of the age or sex of the child.

2(e) When either parent materially violates a visitation or custody order without proper cause or consent of the other parent, in addition to any other remedies and sanctions provided at law, the court may order the violating party to post a bond or other security sufficient to provide for damages to the other party for any future violation. Violation of a visitation order shall include failure of either parent to provide care for a child during a time designated in a court order for him or her to be responsible for the child. It shall not constitute a material violation of a visitation or custody order in cases where a parent who is the victim of any act of domestic violence or who has reasonable cause to believe he or she is about to become the victim of any act of domestic violence, as defined in s. 741.28, or believes that his or her action was necessary to preserve the child from danger to his or her welfare seeks shelter from such acts or possible acts and takes with him or her, or conceals, any child 17 years of age or younger.

- 1. Upon a future material violation, the proceeds of any bond or other security posted pursuant to this subsection may be used to reimburse the nonviolating party for actual costs or damages, including without limitation the costs to locate and return the child, reasonable attorney's fees and costs, and lost wages or child care expenses.
- 2. A party shall not be required to post a bond under this section in an amount which causes the cost of obtaining the bond to be greater than the party's ability to pay. Any deficiency of bond or security shall not absolve the violating party of responsibility to pay the full amount of damages determined by the court.
- 3. Any remaining proceeds shall be held as further security if deemed necessary by the court, and if further security is not found to be necessary; applied to any child support arrears owed by the parent against whom the bond was required, and if no arrears exists; all remaining proceeds will be allocated by the court in the best interest of the child.

Section 3. (1) In a proceeding in which the court enters an order of child custody or visitation, including in a modification proceeding, upon the presentation of competent substantial evidence that there is a risk that one party may violate the court's order of visitation or custody by removing a child from this state or country or by concealing the whereabouts of a child, or upon stipulation of the parties, the court may:

- (a) Order that a parent may not remove the child from this state without the notarized written permission of both parents or further court order;
 - (b) Order that a parent may not remove the child from

02/07/02

this country without the notarized written permission of both 1 2 parents or further court order; 3 (c) Order that a parent may not take the child to a 4 country that has not ratified or acceded to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child 5 Abduction unless the other parent agrees in writing that the 6 7 child may be taken to the country; or 8 Require a parent to surrender the passport of the child; 9 10 (e) Require that party to post bond or other security. (2) If the court enters an order of child custody or 11 visitation, including in a modification proceeding, that 12 13 includes a provision entered under (b) or (c) a certified copy of the order should be sent by the parent who requested the 14 15 restriction to the Passport Services Office of the U.S. Department of State requesting that they not issue a passport 16 17 to the child without their signature or further court order. 18 (3) In assessing the need for a bond or other security, the court may consider any reasonable factor bearing 19 upon the risk that a party may violate a visitation or custody 20 order by removing a child from this state or country or by 21 concealing the whereabouts of a child, including but not 22 23 limited to whether: 24 (a) A court has previously found that a party 25 previously removed a child from Florida or another state in violation of a custody or visitation order, or whether a court 26

- (b) Proceedings under s. 787.03;
- (c) The party has strong family and community ties to

02/07/02

12:11 pm

had found that a party has threatened to take a child out of

Florida or another state in violation of a custody or

visitation order;

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Florida or to other states or countries, including whether the party or child is a citizen of another country;

- (d) The party has strong financial reasons to remain in Florida or to relocate to another state or country;
- (e) The party has engaged in activities that suggest plans to leave Florida, such as quitting employment; sale of a residence or termination of a lease on a residence, without efforts to acquire an alternative residence in the state; closing bank accounts or otherwise liquidating assets; or applying for a passport;
- (f) Either party has had a history of domestic violence as either a victim or perpetrator, child abuse or child neglect evidenced by criminal history, including but not limited to, arrest, an injunction for protection against domestic violence issued after notice and hearing under s. 741.30, medical records, affidavits, or any other relevant information; or
 - (g) The party has a criminal record.
- (4) A party shall not be required to post a bond under this section in an amount which causes the cost of obtaining the bond to be greater than the party's ability to pay. Any deficiency of bond or security shall not absolve the violating party of responsibility to pay the full amount of damages determined by the court.
- (5) Upon a material violation of any custody or visitation order entered under this section, the court may order the bond forfeited in whole or in part. It shall not constitute a material violation of a visitation or custody order in cases where a parent who is the victim of any act of domestic violence or who has reasonable cause to believe he or

she is about to become the victim of any act of domestic

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violence, as defined in s. 741.28, or believes that his or her action was necessary to preserve the child from danger to his or her welfare seeks shelter from such acts or possible acts and takes with him or her, or conceals, any child 17 years of age or younger. Upon an order of forfeiture, the proceeds of any bond or other security posted pursuant to this subsection may only be used to:

- (a) Reimburse the nonviolating party for actual costs or damages incurred in upholding the court's order of custody or visitation.
- (b) Locate and return the child to the residence as set forth in the visitation or custody order.
- (c) Reimburse reasonable fees and costs as determined by the court.
 - (d) Any remaining proceeds shall be:
- 1. held as further security if deemed necessary by the court, and if further security is not found to be necessary;
- 2. applied to any child support arrears owed by the parent against whom the bond was required, and if no arrears exists;
- 3. all remaining proceeds will be allocated by the court in the best interest of the child.
- Section 4. Short title.--Sections 1 through 43 of this act may be cited as the "Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act."
- Section 5. <u>Purposes of act; construction of</u> provisions.--The general purposes of this act are to:
- (1) Avoid jurisdictional competition and conflict with courts of other states in matters of child custody which have in the past resulted in the shifting of children from state to state with harmful effects on their well-being.

02/07/02

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1	(2) Promote cooperation with the courts of other
2	states to the end that a custody decree is rendered in the
3	state which can best decide the case in the interest of the
4	child.
5	(3) Discourage the use of the interstate system for
6	continuing controversies over child custody.
7	(4) Deter abductions.
8	(5) Avoid relitigation of custody decisions of other
9	states in this state.
10	(6) Facilitate the enforcement of custody decrees of
11	other states.
12	(7) Promote and expand the exchange of information and
13	other forms of mutual assistance between the courts of this
14	state and those of other states concerned with the same child.
15	(8) Make uniform the law with respect to the subject
16	of this act among states enacting it.
17	Section 6. DefinitionsAs used in sections 1 through
18	43 of this act, the term:
19	(1) "Abandoned" means left without provision for
20	reasonable and necessary care or supervision.
21	(2) "Child" means an individual who has not attained
22	18 years of age.
23	(3) "Child custody determination" means a judgment,
24	decree, or other order of a court providing for the legal
25	custody, physical custody, or visitation with respect to a
26	child. The term includes a permanent, temporary, initial, and
27	modification order. The term does not include an order
28	relating to child support or other monetary obligation of an
29	individual.
30	(4) "Child custody proceeding" means a proceeding in
31	which legal custody, physical custody, or visitation with

respect to a child is an issue. The term includes a proceeding for divorce, separation, neglect, abuse, dependency, guardianship, paternity, termination of parental rights, and protection from domestic violence, in which the issue may appear. The term does not include a proceeding involving juvenile delinquency, contractual emancipation, or enforcement under sections 24 through 40.

- (5) "Commencement" means the filing of the first pleading in a proceeding.
- (6) "Court" means an entity authorized under the law of a state to establish, enforce, or modify a child custody determination.
- (7) "Home state" means the state in which a child lived with a parent or a person acting as a parent for at least 6 consecutive months immediately before the commencement of a child custody proceeding. In the case of a child less than 6 months of age, the term means the state in which the child lived from birth with any of the persons mentioned. A period of temporary absence of any of the mentioned persons is part of the period.
- (8) "Initial determination" means the first child custody determination concerning a particular child.
- (9) "Issuing court" means the court that makes a child custody determination for which enforcement is sought under this act.
- (10) "Issuing state" means the state in which a child custody determination is made.
- (11) "Modification" means a child custody

 determination that changes, replaces, supersedes, or is

 otherwise made after a previous determination concerning the
 same child, whether or not it is made by the court that made

1	the previous determination.
2	(12) "Person" means an individual, corporation,
3	business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability
4	company, association, joint venture, or government;
5	governmental subdivision, agency, instrumentality, or public
6	corporation; or any other legal or commercial entity.
7	(13) "Person acting as a parent" means a person, other
8	than a parent, who:
9	(a) Has physical custody of the child or has had
10	physical custody for a period of 6 consecutive months,
11	including any temporary absence, within 1 year immediately
12	before the commencement of a child custody proceeding; and
13	(b) Has been awarded legal custody by a court or
14	claims a right to legal custody under the law of this state.
15	(14) "Physical custody" means the physical care and
16	supervision of a child.
17	(15) "State" means a state of the United States, the
18	District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin
19	Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the
20	jurisdiction of the United States.
21	(16) "Tribe" means an Indian tribe, or band, or
22	Alaskan Native village which is recognized by federal law or
23	formally acknowledged by a state.
24	(17) "Warrant" means an order issued by a court
25	authorizing law enforcement officers to take physical custody
26	of a child.
27	Section 7. Proceedings governed by other lawThis
28	act does not govern an adoption proceeding or a proceeding
29	pertaining to the authorization of emergency medical care for
30	a child.
31	Section 8. Application to Indian tribes

1	(1) A child custody proceeding that pertains to an
2	Indian child as defined in the Indian Child Welfare Act, 25
3	U.S.C s. 1901 et seq., is not subject to this act to the
4	extent that it is governed by the Indian Child Welfare Act.
5	(2) A court of this state shall treat a tribe as if it
6	were a state of the United States for purposes of applying
7	sections 1 through 23.
8	(3) A child custody determination made by a tribe
9	under factual circumstances in substantial conformity with the
10	jurisdictional standards of this act must be recognized and
11	enforced under sections 24 through 40.
12	Section 9. International application of act
13	(1) A court of this state shall treat a foreign
14	country as if it were a state of the United States for
15	purposes of applying sections 1 through 23.
16	(2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3), a
17	child custody determination made in a foreign country under
18	factual circumstances in substantial conformity with the
19	jurisdictional standards of this act must be recognized and
20	enforced under sections 24 through 40.
21	(3) A court of this state need not apply this act if
22	the child custody law of a foreign country violates
23	fundamental principles of human rights.
24	Section 10. Effect of child custody determinationA
25	child custody determination made by a court of this state that
26	had jurisdiction under this act binds all persons who have
27	been served in accordance with the laws of this state or
28	notified in accordance with section 9 or who have submitted to
29	the jurisdiction of the court, and who have been given an
30	opportunity to be heard. As to those persons, the
31	determination is conclusive as to all decided issues of law

and fact except to the extent the determination is modified.

Section 11. Priority.--If a question of existence or exercise of jurisdiction under this act is raised in a child custody proceeding, the question, upon request of a party, must be given priority on the calendar and handled expeditiously.

Section 12. Notice to persons outside the state.--

- (1) Notice required for the exercise of jurisdiction when a person is outside this state may be given in a manner prescribed by the laws of this state for the service of process or by the laws of the state in which the service is made. Notice must be given in a manner reasonably calculated to give actual notice, but may be by publication if other means are not effective.
- (2) Proof of service may be made in the manner prescribed by the law of this state or by the law of the state in which the service is made.
- (3) Notice is not required for the exercise of jurisdiction with respect to a person who submits to the jurisdiction of the court.

Section 13. Appearance and limited immunity. --

- (1) A party to a child custody proceeding, including a modification proceeding, or a petitioner or respondent in a proceeding to enforce or register a child custody determination, is not subject to personal jurisdiction in this state for another proceeding or purpose solely by reason of having participated, or of having been physically present for the purpose of participating, in the proceeding.
- (2) A person who is subject to personal jurisdiction in this state on a basis other than physical presence is not immune from service of process in this state. A party present

in this state who is subject to the jurisdiction of another 1 2 state is not immune from service of process allowable under the laws of that state. 3 4 (3) The immunity granted by subsection (1) does not 5 extend to civil litigation based on acts unrelated to the 6 participation in a proceeding under this act committed by an 7 individual while present in this state. 8 Section 14. Communication between courts.--(1) A court of this state may communicate with a court 9 10 in another state concerning a proceeding arising under this 11 act. 12 (2) The court may allow the parties to participate in the communication. If the parties are not able to participate 13 14 in the communication, they must be given the opportunity to 15 present facts and legal arguments before a decision on 16 jurisdiction is made. 17 (3) Communication between courts on schedules, 18 calendars, court records, and similar matters may occur without informing the parties. A record need not be made of 19 20 the communication. 21 (4) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3), a record must be made of a communication under this section. The 22 parties must be informed promptly of the communication and 23 24 granted access to the record. (5) For the purposes of this section, "record" means 25 information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is 26 27 stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form. 28 29 Section 15. Taking testimony in another state. --

party, a party to a child custody proceeding may offer

(1) In addition to other procedures available to a

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testimony of witnesses who are located in another state,
including testimony of the parties and the child, by
deposition or other means allowable in this state for
testimony taken in another state. The court on its own motion
may order that the testimony of a person be taken in another
state and may prescribe the manner in which and the terms upon
which the testimony is taken.

(2) A court of this state may permit an individual

- (2) A court of this state may permit an individual residing in another state to be deposed or to testify by telephone, audiovisual means, or other electronic means before a designated court or at another location in that state. A court of this state shall cooperate with courts of other states in designating an appropriate location for the deposition or testimony.
- (3) Documentary evidence transmitted from another state to a court of this state by technological means that do not produce an original writing may not be excluded from evidence on an objection based on the means of transmission.

Section 16. <u>Cooperation between courts; preservation</u> of records.--

- (1) A court of this state may request the appropriate court of another state to:
 - (a) Hold an evidentiary hearing;
- (b) Order a person to produce or give evidence pursuant to procedures of that state;
- (c) Order that an evaluation be made with respect to the custody of a child involved in a pending proceeding;
- (d) Forward to the court of this state a certified copy of the transcript of the record of the hearing, the evidence otherwise presented, and any evaluation prepared in

31 compliance with the request; and

02/07/02

Order a party to a child custody proceeding or any 1 2 person having physical custody of the child to appear in the 3 proceeding with or without the child. 4 (2) Upon request of a court of another state, a court 5 of this state may hold a hearing or enter an order described 6 in subsection (1). 7 (3) Travel and other necessary and reasonable expenses 8 incurred under subsections (1) and (2) may be assessed against the parties according to the laws of this state. 9 10 (4) A court of this state shall preserve the pleadings, orders, decrees, records of hearings, evaluations, 11 12 and other pertinent records with respect to a child custody 13 proceeding until the child attains 18 years of age. Upon 14 appropriate request by a court or law enforcement official of 15 another state, the court shall forward a certified copy of these records. 16 17 Section 17. Initial child custody jurisdiction. --18 (1) Except as otherwise provided in section 17, a court of this state has jurisdiction to make an initial child 19 20 custody determination only if: 21 (a) This state is the home state of the child on the date of the commencement of the proceeding, or was the home 22 state of the child within 6 months before the commencement of 23 24 the proceeding and the child is absent from this state but a 25 parent or person acting as a parent continues to live in this 26 state; 27 (b) A court of another state does not have jurisdiction under paragraph (a), or a court of the home state 28

02/07/02

12:11 pm

of the child has declined to exercise jurisdiction on the ground that this state is the more appropriate forum under

section 20 or section 21, and:

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1	1. The child and the child's parents, or the child and
2	at least one parent or a person acting as a parent, have a
3	significant connection with this state other than mere
4	physical presence; and
5	2. Substantial evidence is available in this state
6	concerning the child's care, protection, training, and
7	personal relationships;
8	(c) All courts having jurisdiction under paragraph (a)
9	or paragraph (b) have declined to exercise jurisdiction on the
10	ground that a court of this state is the more appropriate
11	forum to determine the custody of the child under section 20
12	or section 21; or
13	(d) No court of any other state would have
14	jurisdiction under the criteria specified in paragraph (a),
15	paragraph (b), or paragraph (c).
16	(2) Subsection (1) is the exclusive jurisdictional
17	basis for making a child custody determination by a court of
18	this state.
19	(3) Physical presence of, or personal jurisdiction
20	over, a party or a child is not necessary or sufficient to
21	make a child custody determination.
22	Section 18. Exclusive, continuing jurisdiction
23	(1) Except as otherwise provided in section 17, a
24	court of this state which has made a child custody
25	determination consistent with section 14 or section 16 has
26	exclusive, continuing jurisdiction over the determination
27	until:
28	(a) A court of this state determines that the child,
29	the child's parents, and any person acting as a parent do not
3.0	have a significant connection with this state and that

substantial evidence is no longer available in this state

concerning the child's care, protection, training, and 1 2 personal relationships; or 3 (b) A court of this state or a court of another state 4 determines that the child, the child's parent, and any person 5 acting as a parent do not presently reside in this state. 6 (2) A court of this state that has made a child 7 custody determination and does not have exclusive, continuing 8 jurisdiction under this section may modify that determination 9 only if it has jurisdiction to make an initial determination 10 under section 14. 11 Section 19. Jurisdiction to modify 12 determination. -- Except as otherwise provided in section 17, a 13 court of this state may not modify a child custody determination made by a court of another state unless a court 14 15 of this state has jurisdiction to make an initial determination under section 14(1)(a) or (b) and: 16 17 (1) The court of the other state determines it no 18 longer has exclusive, continuing jurisdiction under section 15 or that a court of this state would be a more convenient forum 19 20 under section 20; or (2) A court of this state or a court of the other 21 state determines that the child, the child's parents, and any 22 person acting as a parent do not presently reside in the other 23 24 state. Temporary emergency jurisdiction.--25 Section 20. (1) A court of this state has temporary emergency 26 27 jurisdiction if the child is present in this state and the 28 child has been abandoned or it is necessary in an emergency to 29 protect the child because the child, or a sibling or parent of 30 the child, is subjected to or threatened with mistreatment or

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abuse.

- determination that is entitled to be enforced under this act, and a child custody proceeding has not been commenced in a court of a state having jurisdiction under sections 14 through 16, a child custody determination made under this section remains in effect until an order is obtained from a court of a state having jurisdiction under sections 14 through 16. If a child custody proceeding has not been or is not commenced in a court of a state having jurisdiction under sections 14 through 16, a child custody determination under sections 14 through 16, a child custody determination made under this section becomes a final determination, if it so provides and this state becomes the home state of the child.
- (3) If there is a previous child custody determination that is entitled to be enforced under this act, or a child custody proceeding has been commenced in a court of a state having jurisdiction under sections 14 through 16, any order issued by a court of this state under this section must specify in the order a period which the court considers adequate to allow the person seeking an order to obtain an order from the state having jurisdiction under sections 14 through 16. The order issued in this state remains in effect until an order is obtained from the other state within the period specified or the period expires.
- (4) A court of this state which has been asked to make a child custody determination under this section, upon being informed that a child custody proceeding has been commenced in, or a child custody determination has been made by, a court of a state having jurisdiction under sections 14 through 16, shall immediately communicate with the other court. A court of this state which is exercising jurisdiction pursuant to sections 14 through 16, upon being informed that a child

custody proceeding has been commenced in, or a child custody determination has been made by, a court of another state under a statute similar to this section shall immediately communicate with the court of that state to resolve the emergency, protect the safety of the parties and the child, and determine a period for the duration of the temporary order.

Section 21. <u>Notice; opportunity to be heard;</u> joinder.--

- (1) Before a child custody determination is made under this act, notice and an opportunity to be heard in accordance with the standards of section 9 must be given to all persons entitled to notice under the laws of this state as in child custody proceedings between residents of this state, any parent whose parental rights have not been previously terminated, and any person having physical custody of the child.
- (2) This act does not govern the enforceability of a child custody determination made without notice or an opportunity to be heard.
- (3) The obligation to join a party and the right to intervene as a party in a child custody proceeding under this act are governed by the laws of this state as in child custody proceedings between residents of this state.

Section 22. Simultaneous proceedings.--

(1) Except as otherwise provided in section 17, a court of this state may not exercise its jurisdiction under sections 14 through 24 if, at the time of the commencement of the proceeding, a proceeding concerning the custody of the child had been commenced in a court of another state having jurisdiction substantially in conformity with this act, unless

proceeding.

the proceeding has been terminated or is stayed by the court of the other state because a court of this state is a more convenient forum under section 20.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in section 17, a court of this state, before hearing a child custody

proceeding, shall examine the court documents and other information supplied by the parties pursuant to section 22. If the court determines that a child custody proceeding was previously commenced in a court in another state having jurisdiction substantially in accordance with this act, the court of this state shall stay its proceeding and communicate with the court of the other state. If the court of the state having jurisdiction substantially in accordance with this act does not determine that the court of this state is a more

appropriate forum, the court of this state shall dismiss the

- (3) In a proceeding to modify a child custody determination, a court of this state shall determine whether a proceeding to enforce the determination has been commenced in another state. If a proceeding to enforce a child custody determination has been commenced in another state, the court may:
- (a) Stay the proceeding for modification pending the entry of an order of a court of the other state enforcing, staying, denying, or dismissing the proceeding for enforcement;
- (b) Enjoin the parties from continuing with the proceeding for enforcement; or
- (c) Proceed with the modification under conditions it considers appropriate.

Section 23. Inconvenient forum. --

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1	(1) A court of this state which has jurisdiction under
2	this act to make a child custody determination may decline to
3	exercise its jurisdiction at any time if it determines that it
4	is an inconvenient forum under the circumstances and that a
5	court of another state is a more appropriate forum. The issue
6	of inconvenient forum may be raised upon motion of a party,
7	the court's own motion, or request of another court.
8	(2) Before determining whether it is an inconvenient
9	forum, a court of this state shall consider whether it is
10	appropriate for a court of another state to exercise
11	jurisdiction. For this purpose, the court shall allow the
12	parties to submit information and shall consider all relevant
13	factors, including:
14	(a) Whether domestic violence has occurred and is
15	likely to continue in the future and which state could best
16	protect the parties and the child;
17	(b) The length of time the child has resided outside
18	this state;
19	(c) The distance between the court in this state and
20	the court in the state that would assume jurisdiction;
21	(d) The relative financial circumstances of the
22	parties;
23	(e) Any agreement of the parties as to which state
24	should assume jurisdiction;
25	(f) The nature and location of the evidence required
26	to resolve the pending litigation, including testimony of the
27	child;
28	(g) The ability of the court of each state to decide
29	the issue expeditiously and the procedures necessary to

(h)

present the evidence; and

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The familiarity of the court of each state with

the facts and issues in the pending litigation. 1 2 (3) If a court of this state determines that it is an inconvenient forum and that a court of another state is a more 3 4 appropriate forum, it shall stay the proceedings upon 5 condition that a child custody proceeding be promptly 6 commenced in another designated state and may impose any other 7 condition the court considers just and proper. (4) A court of this state may decline to exercise its 8 jurisdiction under this act if a child custody determination 9 10 is incidental to an action for divorce or another proceeding while still retaining jurisdiction over the divorce or other 11 12 proceeding. 13 Section 24. Jurisdiction declined by reason of 14 conduct.--15 (1) Except as otherwise provided in section 17 or by other law of this state, if a court of this state has 16 17 jurisdiction under this act because a person seeking to invoke 18 its jurisdiction has engaged in unjustifiable conduct, the court shall decline to exercise its jurisdiction unless: 19 The parents and all persons acting as parents have 20 (a) acquiesced in the exercise of jurisdiction; 21 (b) A court of the state otherwise having jurisdiction 22 23 under sections 14 through 16 determines that this state is a 24 more appropriate forum under section 20; or 25 (c) No court of any other state would have jurisdiction under the criteria specified in sections 14 26 27 through 16. (2) If a court of this state declines to exercise its 28 29 jurisdiction pursuant to subsection (1), it may fashion an

02/07/02

12:11 pm

appropriate remedy to ensure the safety of the child and

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staying the proceeding until a child custody proceeding is commenced in a court having jurisdiction under sections 14 through 16.

proceeding because it declines to exercise its jurisdiction pursuant to subsection (1), it shall assess against the party seeking to invoke its jurisdiction necessary and reasonable expenses, including costs, communication expenses, attorney's fees, investigative fees, expenses for witnesses, travel expenses, and child care during the course of the proceedings, unless the party from whom fees are sought establishes that the assessment would be clearly inappropriate. The court may not assess fees, costs, or expenses against this state unless authorized by law other than this act.

Section 25. <u>Information to be submitted to the</u> court.--

- (1) Subject to state law providing for the confidentiality of procedures, addresses, and other identifying information in a child custody proceeding, each party, in its first pleading or in an attached affidavit, shall give information, if reasonably ascertainable, under oath as to the child's present address or whereabouts, the places where the child has lived during the last 5 years, and the names and present addresses of the persons with whom the child has lived during that period. The pleading or affidavit must state whether the party:
- (a) Has participated, as a party or witness or in any other capacity, in any other proceeding concerning the custody of or visitation with the child and, if so, identify the court, the case number, and the date of the child custody determination, if any;

02/07/02

- (b) Knows of any proceeding that could affect the current proceeding, including proceedings for enforcement and proceedings relating to domestic violence, protective orders, termination of parental rights, and adoptions and, if so, identify the court, the case number, and the nature of the proceeding; and

 (c) Knows the names and addresses of any person not a party to the proceeding who has physical custody of the child or claims rights of legal custody or physical custody of, or visitation with, the child and, if so, the names and addresses of those persons.
- (2) If the information required by subsection (1) is not furnished, the court, upon motion of a party or its own motion, may stay the proceeding until the information is furnished.
- (3) If the declaration as to any of the items described in paragraphs (1)(a)-(c) is in the affirmative, the declarant shall give additional information under oath as required by the court. The court may examine the parties under oath as to details of the information furnished and other matters pertinent to the court's jurisdiction and the disposition of the case.
- (4) Each party has a continuing duty to inform the court of any proceeding in this or any other state that could affect the current proceeding.

Section 26. Appearance of parties and child.--

(1) In a child custody proceeding in this state, the court may order a party to the proceeding who is in this state to appear before the court in person with or without the child. The court may order any person who is in this state and who has physical custody or control of the child to appear in

02/07/02

person with the child. 1 (2) If a party to a child custody proceeding whose 2 3 presence is desired by the court is outside this state, the 4 court may order that a notice given pursuant to section 9 5 include a statement directing the party to appear in person with or without the child and informing the party that failure 6 7 to appear may result in a decision adverse to the party. 8 (3) The court may enter any orders necessary to ensure 9 the safety of the child and of any person ordered to appear 10 under this section. 11 (4) If a party to a child custody proceeding who is 12 outside this state is directed to appear under subsection (2) 13 or desires to appear in person before the court with or without the child, the court may require another party to pay 14 15 reasonable and necessary travel and other expenses of the party so appearing and of the child. 16 17 Section 27. Definitions.--As used in sections 24 18 through 40, the term: (1) "Petitioner" means a person who seeks enforcement 19 of an order for return of a child under the Hague Convention 20 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction or 21 enforcement of a child custody determination. 22 "Respondent" means a person against whom a 23 24 proceeding has been commenced for enforcement of an order for return of a child under the Hague Convention on the Civil 25 Aspects of International Child Abduction or enforcement of a 26 27 child custody determination. Section 28. Enforcement under the Hague 28 29 Convention .-- Under this act, a court of this state may enforce 30 an order for the return of a child made under the Hague

Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child

Abduction as if it were a child custody determination.

Section 29. Duty to enforce.--

- (1) A court of this state shall recognize and enforce a child custody determination of a court of another state if the latter court exercised jurisdiction in substantial conformity with this act or the determination was made under factual circumstances meeting the jurisdictional standards of this act and the determination has not been modified in accordance with this act.
- (2) A court of this state may utilize any remedy available under other law of this state to enforce a child custody determination made by a court of another state. The remedies provided by sections 24 through 40 are cumulative and do not affect the availability of other remedies to enforce a child custody determination.

Section 30. Temporary visitation. --

- (1) A court of this state which does not have jurisdiction to modify a child custody determination may issue a temporary order enforcing:
- (b) The visitation provisions of a child custody determination of another state that does not provide for a specific visitation schedule.
- (2) If a court of this state makes an order under paragraph (1)(b), it shall specify in the order a period that it considers adequate to allow the petitioner to obtain an order from a court having jurisdiction under the criteria specified in sections 14 through 23. The order remains in effect until an order is obtained from the other court or the period expires.

1	Section 31. Registration of child custody
2	determination
3	(1) A child custody determination issued by a court of
4	another state may be registered in this state, with or without
5	a simultaneous request for enforcement, by sending to the
6	appropriate court in this state:
7	(a) A letter or other document requesting
8	registration;
9	(b) Two copies, including one certified copy, of the
10	determination sought to be registered, and a statement under
11	penalty of perjury that to the best of the knowledge and
12	belief of the person seeking registration the order has not
13	been modified; and
14	(c) Except as otherwise provided in section 22, the
15	name and address of the person seeking registration and any
16	parent or person acting as a parent who has been awarded
17	custody or visitation in the child custody determination
18	sought to be registered.
19	(2) On receipt of the documents required by subsection
20	(1), the registering court shall:
21	(a) Cause the determination to be filed as a foreign
22	judgment, together with one copy of any accompanying documents
23	and information, regardless of their form; and
24	(b) Serve notice upon the persons named pursuant to
25	paragraph (1)(c) and provide them with an opportunity to
26	contest the registration in accordance with this section.
27	(3) The notice required by paragraph (2)(b) must state
28	that:
29	(a) A registered determination is enforceable as of
30	the date of the registration in the same manner as a
31	determination issued by a court of this state;

1	(b) A hearing to contest the validity of the
2	registered determination must be requested within 20 days
3	after service of notice; and
4	(c) Failure to contest the registration will result in
5	confirmation of the child custody determination and preclude
6	further contest of that determination with respect to any
7	matter that could have been asserted.
8	(4) A person seeking to contest the validity of a
9	registered order must request a hearing within 20 days after
10	service of the notice. At that hearing, the court shall
11	confirm the registered order unless the person contesting
12	registration establishes that:
13	(a) The issuing court did not have jurisdiction under
14	sections 14 through 23;
15	(b) The child custody determination sought to be
16	registered has been vacated, stayed, or modified by a court
17	having jurisdiction to do so under sections 14 through 23; or
18	(c) The person contesting registration was entitled to
19	notice, but notice was not given in accordance with the
20	standards of section 9 in the proceedings before the court
21	that issued the order for which registration is sought.
22	(5) If a timely request for a hearing to contest the
23	validity of the registration is not made, the registration is
24	confirmed as a matter of law and the person requesting
25	registration and all persons served must be notified of the
26	confirmation.
27	(6) Confirmation of a registered order, whether by
28	operation of law or after notice and hearing, precludes

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further contest of the order with respect to any matter which

could have been asserted at the time of registration.

Section 32.

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Enforcement of registered determination.--

1	(1) A court of this state may grant any relief
2	normally available under the laws of this state to enforce a
3	registered child custody determination made by a court of
4	another state.
5	(2) A court of this state shall recognize and enforce,
6	but may not modify, except in accordance with sections 14
7	through 23, a registered child custody determination of
8	another state.
9	Section 33. Simultaneous proceedingsIf a proceeding
10	for enforcement under sections 24 through 40 is commenced in a
11	court of this state and the court determines that a proceeding
12	to modify the determination is pending in a court of another
13	state having jurisdiction to modify the determination under
14	sections 14 through 23, the enforcing court shall immediately
15	communicate with the modifying court. The proceeding for
16	enforcement continues unless the enforcing court, after
17	consultation with the modifying court, stays or dismisses the
18	proceeding.
19	Section 34. Expedited enforcement of child custody
20	determination
21	(1) A petition under sections 24 through 40 must be
22	verified. Certified copies of all orders sought to be enforced
23	and of any order confirming registration must be attached to
24	the petition. A copy of a certified copy of an order may be
25	attached instead of the original.
26	(2) A petition for enforcement of a child custody
27	determination must state:
28	(a) Whether the court that issued the determination
29	identified the jurisdictional basis it relied upon in

exercising jurisdiction and, if so, what the basis was;

(b)

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Whether the determination for which enforcement is

sought has been vacated, stayed, or modified by a court whose decision must be enforced under this act and, if so, identify the court, the case number, and the nature of the proceeding;

- (c) Whether any proceeding has been commenced that could affect the current proceeding, including proceedings relating to domestic violence, protective orders, termination of parental rights, and adoptions and, if so, identify the court, the case number, and the nature of the proceeding;
- (d) The present physical address of the child and the respondent, if known;
- (e) Whether relief in addition to the immediate physical custody of the child and attorney's fees is sought, including a request for assistance from law enforcement officers and, if so, the relief sought; and
- (f) If the child custody determination has been registered and confirmed under section 28, the date and place of registration.
- issue an order directing the respondent to appear in person with or without the child at a hearing and may enter any order necessary to ensure the safety of the parties and the child. The hearing must be held on the next judicial day after service of the order unless that date is impossible. In that event, the court shall hold the hearing on the first judicial day possible. The court may extend the date of the hearing at the request of the petitioner.
- (4) An order issued under subsection (3) must state the time and place of the hearing and advise the respondent that at the hearing the court will order that the petitioner may take immediate physical custody of the child and the payment of fees, costs, and expenses under section 35, and may

schedule a hearing to determine whether further relief is 1 2 appropriate, unless the respondent appears and establishes 3 that: 4 The child custody determination has not been 5 registered and confirmed under section 28 and that: 6 The issuing court did not have jurisdiction under 7 sections 14 through 23; 2. The child custody determination for which 8 9 enforcement is sought has been vacated, stayed, or modified by 10 a court of a state having jurisdiction to do so under sections 11 14 through 23; or 12 3. The respondent was entitled to notice, but notice 13 was not given in accordance with the standards of section 9 in the proceedings before the court that issued the order for 14 15 which enforcement is sought; or 16 The child custody determination for which 17 enforcement is sought was registered and confirmed under 18 section 28, but has been vacated, stayed, or modified by a court of a state having jurisdiction to do so under sections 19 20 14 through 23. Section 35. Service of petition and order.--Except as 21 otherwise provided in section 34, the petition and order must 22 be served by any method authorized by the laws of this state 23 24 upon the respondent and any person who has physical custody of 25 the child. Section 36. Hearing and order.--26 27 (1) Unless the court enters a temporary emergency order pursuant to section 17, upon a finding that a petitioner 28 29 is entitled to immediate physical custody of the child, the

court shall order that the petitioner may take immediate

physical custody of the child unless the respondent

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establishes that: 1 2 The child custody determination has not been 3 registered and confirmed under section 28 and that: 4 1. The issuing court did not have jurisdiction under 5 sections 14 through 23; 6 2. The child custody determination for which 7 enforcement is sought has been vacated, stayed, or modified by a court of a state having jurisdiction to do so under sections 8

14 through 23; or

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- 3. The respondent was entitled to notice, but notice was not given in accordance with the standards of section 9 in the proceedings before the court that issued the order for which enforcement is sought; or
- (b) The child custody determination for which enforcement is sought was registered and confirmed under section 28, but has been vacated, stayed, or modified by a court of a state having jurisdiction to do so under sections 14 through 23.
- (2) The court shall award the fees, costs, and expenses authorized under section 35 and may grant additional relief, including a request for the assistance of law enforcement officers, and set a further hearing to determine whether additional relief is appropriate.
- (3) If a party called to testify refuses to answer on the ground that the testimony may be self-incriminating, the court may draw an adverse inference from the refusal.
- (4) A privilege against disclosure of communications between spouses and a defense of immunity based on the relationship of husband and wife or parent and child may not be invoked in a proceeding under sections 24 through 40.

Section 37. Warrant to take physical custody of

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child.--

- (1) Upon the filing of a petition seeking enforcement of a child custody determination, the petitioner may file a verified application for the issuance of a warrant to take physical custody of the child if the child is likely to imminently suffer serious physical harm or removal from this state.
- or other witness, finds that the child is likely to imminently suffer serious physical harm or removal from this state, it may issue a warrant to take physical custody of the child. The petition must be heard on the next judicial day after the warrant is executed unless that date is impossible. In that event, the court shall hold the hearing on the first judicial day possible. The application for the warrant must include the statements required by section 31(2).
- (3) A warrant to take physical custody of a child
 must:
- (a) Recite the facts upon which a conclusion of imminent serious physical harm or removal from the jurisdiction is based;
- (b) Direct law enforcement officers to take physical custody of the child immediately; and
- (c) Provide for the placement of the child pending final relief.
- (4) The respondent must be served with the petition, warrant, and order immediately after the child is taken into physical custody.
- (5) A warrant to take physical custody of a child is enforceable throughout this state. If the court finds on the basis of the testimony of the petitioner or other witness that

a less intrusive remedy is not effective, it may authorize law enforcement officers to enter private property to take physical custody of the child. If required by exigent circumstances of the case, the court may authorize law enforcement officers to make a forcible entry at any hour.

(6) The court may impose conditions upon placement of a child to ensure the appearance of the child and the child's custodian.

Section 38. Costs, fees, and expenses.--

- (1) The court shall award the prevailing party, including a state, necessary and reasonable expenses incurred by or on behalf of the party, including costs, communication expenses, attorney's fees, investigative fees, expenses for witnesses, travel expenses, and child care during the course of the proceedings, unless the party from whom fees or expenses are sought establishes that the award would be clearly inappropriate.
- (2) The court may not assess fees, costs, or expenses against a state unless authorized by law other than this act.

Section 39. Recognition and enforcement.--A court of this state shall accord full faith and credit to an order issued by another state and consistent with this act which enforces a child custody determination by a court of another state unless the order has been vacated, stayed, or modified by a court having jurisdiction to do so under sections 14 through 23.

Section 40. Appeals.--An appeal may be taken from a final order in a proceeding under sections 24 through 40 in accordance with expedited appellate procedures in other civil cases. Unless the court enters a temporary emergency order under section 17, the enforcing court may not stay an order

02/07/02

1	enforcing a child custody determination pending appeal.
2	Section 41. Role of state attorney
3	(1) In a case arising under this act or involving the
4	Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child
5	Abduction, the state attorney may take any lawful action,
6	including resort to a proceeding under sections 24 through 40
7	or any other available civil proceeding, to locate a child,
8	obtain the return of a child, or enforce a child custody
9	determination, if there is:
10	(a) An existing child custody determination;
11	(b) A request to do so from a court in a pending child
12	<pre>custody proceeding;</pre>
13	(c) A reasonable belief that a criminal statute has
14	been violated; or
15	(d) A reasonable belief that the child has been
16	wrongfully removed or retained in violation of the Hague
17	Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child
18	Abduction.
19	(2) A state attorney acting under this section acts on
20	behalf of the court and may not represent any party.
21	Section 42. Role of law enforcement officersAt the
22	request of a state attorney acting under section 38, a law
23	enforcement officer may take any lawful action reasonably
24	necessary to locate a child or a party and assist a state
25	attorney with responsibilities under section 38.
26	Section 43. Costs and expenses If the respondent is
27	not the prevailing party, the court may assess against the
28	respondent all direct expenses and costs incurred by the state
29	attorney and law enforcement officers under section 38 or
30	section 39.
31	Section 44. Application and constructionIn applying

and construing this act, consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact it.

Section 45. Severability clause.--If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are severable.

Section 46. Transitional provision.--A motion or other request for relief made in a child custody proceeding or to enforce a child custody determination which was commenced before the effective date of this act is governed by the law in effect at the time the motion or other request was made.

Section 47. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3), subsection (4), and paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section 741.30, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

741.30 Domestic violence; injunction; powers and duties of court and clerk; petition; notice and hearing; temporary injunction; issuance of injunction; statewide verification system; enforcement.--

(3)

- (d) If the sworn petition seeks to determine issues of custody or visitation with regard to the minor child or children of the parties, the sworn petition shall be accompanied by or shall incorporate the allegations required by section 22 s. 61.132 of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act.
- (4) Upon the filing of the petition, the court shall set a hearing to be held at the earliest possible time. The respondent shall be personally served with a copy of the

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petition, financial affidavit, uniform child custody jurisdiction <u>and enforcement</u> act affidavit, if any, notice of hearing, and temporary injunction, if any, prior to the hearing.

The clerk of the court shall furnish a copy (7)(a)1.of the petition, financial affidavit, uniform child custody jurisdiction and enforcement act affidavit, if any, notice of hearing, and temporary injunction, if any, to the sheriff or a law enforcement agency of the county where the respondent resides or can be found, who shall serve it upon the respondent as soon thereafter as possible on any day of the week and at any time of the day or night. The clerk of the court shall be responsible for furnishing to the sheriff such information on the respondent's physical description and location as is required by the department to comply with the verification procedures set forth in this section. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the chief judge of each circuit, in consultation with the appropriate sheriff, may authorize a law enforcement agency within the jurisdiction to effect service. A law enforcement agency serving injunctions pursuant to this section shall use service and verification procedures consistent with those of the sheriff.

2. When an injunction is issued, if the petitioner requests the assistance of a law enforcement agency, the court may order that an officer from the appropriate law enforcement agency accompany the petitioner and assist in placing the petitioner in possession of the dwelling or residence, or otherwise assist in the execution or service of the injunction. A law enforcement officer shall accept a copy of an injunction for protection against domestic violence,

certified by the clerk of the court, from the petitioner and immediately serve it upon a respondent who has been located but not yet served.

3. All orders issued, changed, continued, extended, or vacated subsequent to the original service of documents enumerated under subparagraph 1., shall be certified by the clerk of the court and delivered to the parties at the time of the entry of the order. The parties may acknowledge receipt of such order in writing on the face of the original order. In the event a party fails or refuses to acknowledge the receipt of a certified copy of an order, the clerk shall note on the original order that service was effected. If delivery at the hearing is not possible, the clerk shall mail certified copies of the order to the parties at the last known address of each party. Service by mail is complete upon mailing. When an order is served pursuant to this subsection, the clerk shall prepare a written certification to be placed in the court file specifying the time, date, and method of service and shall notify the sheriff.

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If the respondent has been served previously with the temporary injunction and has failed to appear at the initial hearing on the temporary injunction, any subsequent petition for injunction seeking an extension of time may be served on the respondent by the clerk of the court by certified mail in lieu of personal service by a law enforcement officer.

Section 48. <u>Sections 61.1302, 61.1304, 61.1306,</u>
61.1308, 61.131, 61.1312, 61.1314, 61.1316, 61.1318, 61.132,
61.1322, 61.1324, 61.1326, 61.1328, 61.133, 61.1332, 61.1334,
61.1336, 61.1338, 61.134, 61.1342, 61.1344, 61.1346, and

31 61.1348, Florida Statutes, are repealed.

Amendment No. 01 (for drafter's use only)

Section 49. This act shall take effect October 1, 1 2 2002. 3 4 5 ======= T I T L E A M E N D M E N T ========= 6 And the title is amended as follows: 7 On page 36, line 30, through page 39, line 16 of the 8 amendment 9 remove: entire title 10 and insert: 11 12 A bill to be entitled 13 An act relating to child custody jurisdiction and enforcement; creating the "Uniform Child 14 15 Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act"; providing purposes of act; providing 16 17 definitions; specifying proceedings not governed by the act; providing application to 18 Indian tribes; providing international 19 application of the act; providing the effect of 20 a child custody determination; providing 21 priority for questions of jurisdiction under 22 the act; providing for notice to persons 23 24 outside the state; providing for appearance at 25 proceedings and limited immunity; providing for communication between courts of this state and 26 27 courts of other states; providing for taking testimony in another state; providing for 28 29 cooperation between courts and the preservation 30 of records; providing for initial child custody jurisdiction; providing for exclusive, 31

Amendment No. 01 (for drafter's use only)

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continuing jurisdiction; providing for jurisdiction to modify a child custody determination; providing for temporary emergency jurisdiction; providing for notice, opportunity to be heard, and joinder; providing procedures with respect to simultaneous proceedings; providing for determination of an inconvenient forum; providing procedures for a decline of jurisdiction by reason of conduct; specifying information to be submitted to the court; providing for the appearance of the parties and the child at proceedings; providing definitions relating to enforcement; providing for enforcement under the Hague Convention; providing duty of the court to enforce child custody determinations of a court of another state; providing for temporary visitation; providing for registration of out-of-state child custody determinations; providing for enforcement of registered determinations; providing procedures with respect to simultaneous proceedings; providing for expedited enforcement of a child custody determination; providing for service of petition and order; providing for hearing and order; providing for issuance of a warrant to take physical custody of a child under certain circumstances; providing for award of costs, fees, and expenses to the prevailing party; providing for recognition of enforcement orders of a court of another state; providing for

Amendment No. 01 (for drafter's use only)

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appeals; providing for actions by the state attorney; providing for actions by law enforcement officers; providing for assessment of costs and expenses incurred by the state attorney and law enforcement officers; providing for application and construction of the act; providing severability; providing for transition; amending s. 61.13, F.S.; providing for the posting of a bond with respect to certain orders of child custody or visitation; providing criteria for the court to use in assessing the need for a bond; providing for forfeiture of the bond under certain circumstances; creating a new section; providing for the posting of a bond with respect to certain orders of child custody or visitation; providing criteria for the court to use in assessing the need for a bond; providing for forfeiture of the bond under certain circumstances; amending ss. 39.502, 61.13, and 741.30, F.S.; conforming references and cross-references; repealing ss. 61.1302, 61.1304, 61.1306, 61.1308, 61.131, 61.1312, 61.1314, 61.1316, 61.1318, 61.132, 61.1322, 61.1324, 61.1326, 61.1328, 61.133, 61.1332, 61.1334, 61.1336, 61.1338, 61.134, 61.1342, 61.1344, 61.1346, and 61.1348, F.S., relating to the "Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act"; providing an effective date.