A bill to be entitled

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An act relating to child support; amending s. 61.13, F.S.; requiring either or both parents who owe support to secure a child support award; amending s. 61.30, F.S.; providing conditions for the imputation of income by the court under certain circumstances; providing for the determination of net income; providing child support quidelines schedules; providing for income levels above what is reflected in the schedule; revising amount of child care costs to be added to the basic child support obligation; revising method for calculating each parent's percentage share of the child support need; revising method of calculating the total minimum child support need; revising factors to be considered by the court in adjusting child support awards; providing for calculation of child support orders in cases of split parenting arrangements; specifying the method for determining a child support order amount; amending s. 409.2563, F.S.; providing for the imputation of income under certain circumstances; amending s. 409.2564, F.S.; revising a threshold for arrearages before passport restrictions apply; amending s. 409.25641, F.S.; requiring the Department of Revenue to employ automated administrative enforcement of support orders in interstate cases; authorizing the department to establish a corresponding case under certain circumstances; requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to evaluate state compliance with federally required review of child support quidelines and provide a

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report to the Governor and Legislature; providing an effective date.

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

- Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (1) of section 61.13, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 61.13 Custody and support of children; visitation rights; power of court in making orders.--
- (1) (a) In a proceeding under this chapter, the court may at any time order either or both parents who owe a duty of support to a child to pay support in accordance with the child support guidelines schedules in s. 61.30. The court initially entering an order requiring one or both parents to make child support payments shall have continuing jurisdiction after the entry of the initial order to modify the amount and terms and conditions of the child support payments when the modification is found necessary by the court in the best interests of the child, when the child reaches majority, or when there is a substantial change in the circumstances of the parties. The court initially entering a child support order shall also have continuing jurisdiction to require the obligee to report to the court on terms prescribed by the court regarding the disposition of the child support payments.
- (c) To the extent necessary to protect an award of child support, the court may order either or both parents who owe a duty of support to a child the obligor to purchase or maintain a life insurance policy or a bond, or to otherwise secure the

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child support award with any other assets which may be suitable for that purpose, depending upon the equities of the cause.

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Section 2. Section 61.30, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 61.30 Child support guidelines; guidelines schedules; retroactive child support.--
- (1)(a) The child support quideline amount as determined by this section presumptively establishes the amount the trier of fact shall order as child support in an initial proceeding for such support or in a proceeding for modification of an existing order for such support, whether the proceeding arises under this or another chapter. The trier of fact may order payment of child support which varies, plus or minus 5 percent, from the guideline amount, after considering all relevant factors, including the needs of the child or children, age, station in life, standard of living, and the financial status and ability of each parent. The trier of fact may order payment of child support in an amount which varies more than 5 percent from such guideline amount only upon a written finding explaining why ordering payment of such guideline amount would be unjust or inappropriate. Notwithstanding the variance limitations of this section, the trier of fact shall order payment of child support which varies from the quideline amount as provided in paragraph (11) (b) whenever any of the children are required by court order or mediation agreement to spend a substantial amount of time with the primary and secondary residential parents. This requirement applies to any living arrangement, whether temporary or permanent.

(b) The guidelines <u>schedules</u> may provide the basis for proving a substantial change in circumstances upon which a modification of an existing order may be granted. However, the difference between the existing monthly obligation and the amount provided for under the guidelines <u>schedules</u> shall be at least 15 percent or \$50, whichever amount is greater, before the court may find that the guidelines <u>schedules</u> provide a substantial change in circumstances.

- (c) For each support order reviewed by the department as required by s. 409.2564(11), if the amount of the child support award under the order differs by at least 10 percent but not less than \$25 from the amount that would be awarded under s. 61.30, the department shall seek to have the order modified and any modification shall be made without a requirement for proof or showing of a change in circumstances.
- (2) Income shall be determined on a monthly basis for <u>each</u> parent the obliger and for the obligee as follows:
- (a) Gross income shall include, but is not limited to, the following items:
 - 1. Salary or wages.

- 2. Bonuses, commissions, allowances, overtime, tips, and other similar payments.
- 3. Business income from sources such as self-employment, partnership, close corporations, and independent contracts.

 "Business income" means gross receipts minus ordinary and necessary expenses required to produce income.
 - 4. Disability benefits.
 - 5. All workers' compensation benefits and settlements.

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113 6. Unemployment compensation.

- 7. Pension, retirement, or annuity payments.
 - 8. Social security benefits.
- 9. Spousal support received from a previous marriage or court ordered in the marriage before the court.
 - 10. Interest and dividends.
- 11. Rental income, which is gross receipts minus ordinary and necessary expenses required to produce the income.
 - 12. Income from royalties, trusts, or estates.
- 13. Reimbursed expenses or in kind payments to the extent that they reduce living expenses.
- 14. Gains derived from dealings in property, unless the gain is nonrecurring.
- (b) 1. Income on a monthly basis shall be imputed to an unemployed or underemployed parent when such employment or underemployment is found by the court to be voluntary on that parent's part, absent a finding of fact by the court of physical or mental incapacity or other circumstances over which the parent has no control. In the event of such voluntary unemployment or underemployment, the employment potential and probable earnings level of the parent shall be determined based upon his or her recent work history, occupational qualifications, and prevailing earnings level in the community as provided in this paragraph; however, the court may refuse to impute income to a primary residential parent if the court finds it necessary for the parent to stay home with the child who is the subject of the child support calculation to care for that child.

2. In order for the court to impute income under subparagraph 1., the court must make specific findings of fact consistent with the requirements of this paragraph. The party seeking to impute income has the burden to present competent, substantial evidence:

- a. That the unemployment or underemployment is voluntary; and
- b. That identifies the amount and source of the imputed income, through evidence of available income from employment for which the party is suitably qualified by education, experience, current licensure, or geographic location, with due consideration being given to the parties' current existing parental obligations and time-sharing plan and their historical compliance with the plan.
- 3. A rebuttable presumption shall exist, which entitles the court to impute Florida minimum wage to a parent if no other evidentiary basis or mechanism for establishing a parent's gross income is available, absent a finding by the court that:
- a. The parent has a physical or mental incapacity that renders the parent unemployable or underemployed;
- b. The parent needs to stay home with a child who is the subject of the child support calculation proceedings and care for that child, thereby preventing the parent's employment or rendering the parent underemployed; or
- c. There are other circumstances over which the parent has no control, except for penal incarceration, which prevents the parent from earning an income.

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If evidence is produced that demonstrates that the parent is a resident of another state, the state minimum wage applicable to the parent's state of residence shall apply if it is greater than the Florida minimum wage. In the absence of a state minimum wage or if the other state's minimum wage is lower than the Florida minimum wage, the federal minimum wage as determined by the United States Department of Labor shall apply.

4. Income may not be imputed beyond minimum wage requirements in subparagraph 3. based upon:

- a. Income records that are more than 5 years old at the time of the hearing or trial at which imputation is sought.
- b. Income at a level that a party has not previously ever earned in the past, unless the party recently has earned a degree or been licensed, certified, relicensed, or recertified and thus is qualified for, subject to geographic location, with due consideration being given to the party's current existing parental obligations and time-sharing plan and historical compliance with the plan.
- (c) Public assistance as defined in s. 409.2554 shall be excluded from gross income.
- (3) <u>Net income is obtained by subtracting</u> allowable deductions from gross income. <u>Allowable deductions</u> shall include:
- (a) Federal, state, and local income tax deductions, adjusted for actual filing status and allowable dependents and income tax liabilities.
- (b) Federal insurance contributions or self-employmenttax.

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(c) Mandatory union dues.

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- (d) Mandatory retirement payments.
- (e) Health insurance payments, excluding payments for coverage of the minor child.
- (f) Court-ordered support for other children which is actually paid.
- (g) Spousal support paid pursuant to a court order from a previous marriage or the marriage before the court.
- (4) Net income for <u>each parent</u> the obligor and net income for the obligee shall be computed by subtracting allowable deductions from gross income.
- (5) Net income for <u>each parent</u> the obligor and net income for the obligee shall be added together for a combined net income.
- (6) The following <u>guidelines</u> schedules shall be applied to the combined net income to determine the minimum child support need:

Combined Monthly $\underline{\text{Net}}$ Child or Children Available Income

		One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six
216							
	650.00	74	75	75	76	77	78
217							
	700.00	119	120	121	123	124	125
218							

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	HB 1571							2007
219	750.00	164	166	167	169	171	173	
	800.00	190	211	213	216	218	220	
220	850.00	202	257	259	262	265	268	
221	900.00	213	302	305	309	312	315	
222	950.00	224	347	351	355	359	363	
223	1000.00	235	365	397	402	406	410	
224	1050.00	246	382	443	448	453	458	
225	1100.00	258	400	489	495	500	505	
226	1150.00	269	417	522	541	547	553	
227	1200.00	280	435	544	588	594	600	
228	1250.00	290	451	565	634	641	648	
229	1300.00	300	467	584	659	688	695	
230								
231	1350.00	310	482	603	681	735	743	
232	1400.00	320	498	623	702	765	790	

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	HB 1571							2007
233	1450.00	330	513	642	724	789	838	
234	1500.00	340	529	662	746	813	869	
	1550.00	350	544	681	768	836	895	
235	1600.00	360	560	701	790	860	920	
236	1650.00	370	575	720	812	884	945	
237	1700.00	380	591	740	833	907	971	
238	1750.00	390	606	759	855	931	996	
239	1800.00	400	622	779	877	955	1022	
240	1850.00	410	638	798	900	979	1048	
241	1900.00	421	654	818	923	1004	1074	
242	1950.00	431	670	839	946	1029	1101	
243	2000.00	442	686	859	968	1054	1128	
244	2050.00	452	702	879	991	1079	1154	
245		463	718	899	1014	1104	1181	
246				D 40 504				

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	HB 1571							2007
247	2150.00	473	734	919	1037	1129	1207	
	2200.00	484	751	940	1060	1154	1234	
248	2250.00	494	767	960	1082	1179	1261	
249	2300.00	505	783	980	1105	1204	1287	
250	2350.00	515	799	1000	1128	1229	1314	
251	2400.00	526	815	1020	1151	1254	1340	
252	2450.00	536	831	1041	1174	1279	1367	
253								
254	2500.00	547	847	1061	1196	1304	1394	
255	2550.00	557	864	1081	1219	1329	1420	
256	2600.00	568	880	1101	1242	1354	1447	
257	2650.00	578	896	1121	1265	1379	1473	
	2700.00	588	912	1141	1287	1403	1500	
258	2750.00	597	927	1160	1308	1426	1524	
259	2800.00	607	941	1178	1328	1448	1549	
260								

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	HB 1571							2007
261	2850.00	616	956	1197	1349	1471	1573	
262	2900.00	626	971	1215	1370	1494	1598	
	2950.00	635	986	1234	1391	1517	1622	
263	3000.00	644	1001	1252	1412	1540	1647	
264	3050.00	654	1016	1271	1433	1563	1671	
265	3100.00	663	1031	1289	1453	1586	1695	
266	3150.00	673	1045	1308	1474	1608	1720	
267	3200.00	682	1060	1327	1495	1631	1744	
268	3250.00	691	1075	1345	1516	1654	1769	
269	3300.00	701	1090	1364	1537	1677	1793	
270	3350.00	710	1105	1382	1558	1700	1818	
271	3400.00	720	1120	1401	1579	1723	1842	
272	3450.00	729	1135	1419	1599	1745	1867	
273	3500.00	738	1149	1438	1620	1768	1891	
274				D 40 (04				

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	HB 1571							2007
275	3550.00	748	1164	1456	1641	1791	1915	
	3600.00	757	1179	1475	1662	1814	1940	
276	3650.00	767	1194	1493	1683	1837	1964	
277	3700.00	776	1208	1503	1702	1857	1987	
278	3750.00	784	1221	1520	1721	1878	2009	
279								
280	3800.00	793	1234	1536	1740	1899	2031	
281	3850.00	802	1248	1553	1759	1920	2053	
282	3900.00	811	1261	1570	1778	1940	2075	
	3950.00	819	1275	1587	1797	1961	2097	
283	4000.00	828	1288	1603	1816	1982	2119	
284	4050.00	837	1302	1620	1835	2002	2141	
285	4100 00	0.4.6	1215	1627	1054	2022	21.62	
286	4100.00	846	1315	1637	1854	2023	2163	
287	4150.00	854	1329	1654	1873	2044	2185	
288	4200.00	863	1342	1670	1892	2064	2207	
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	HB 1571							2007
289	4250.00	872	1355	1687	1911	2085	2229	
	4300.00	881	1369	1704	1930	2106	2251	
290	4350.00	889	1382	1721	1949	2127	2273	
291	4400.00	898	1396	1737	1968	2147	2295	
292	4450.00	907	1409	1754	1987	2168	2317	
293	4500.00	916	1423	1771	2006	2189	2339	
294	4550.00	924	1436	1788	2024	2209	2361	
295	4600.00	933	1450	1804	2043	2230	2384	
296	4650.00	942	1463	1821	2062	2251	2406	
297								
298	4700.00	951	1477	1838	2081	2271	2428	
299	4750.00	959	1490	1855	2100	2292	2450	
300	4800.00	968	1503	1871	2119	2313	2472	
301	4850.00	977	1517	1888	2138	2334	2494	
302	4900.00	986	1530	1905	2157	2354	2516	

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	HB 1571							2007
303	4950.00	993	1542	1927	2174	2372	2535	
	5000.00	1000	1551	1939	2188	2387	2551	
304	5050.00	1006	1561	1952	2202	2402	2567	
305	5100.00	1013	1571	1964	2215	2417	2583	
306	5150.00	1019	1580	1976	2229	2432	2599	
307	5200.00	1025	1590	1988	2243	2447	2615	
308	5250.00	1032	1599	2000	2256	2462	2631	
309	5300.00	1038	1609	2012	2270	2477	2647	
310								
311	5350.00	1045	1619	2024	2283	2492	2663	
312	5400.00	1051	1628	2037	2297	2507	2679	
313	5450.00	1057	1638	2049	2311	2522	2695	
314	5500.00	1064	1647	2061	2324	2537	2711	
315	5550.00	1070	1657	2073	2338	2552	2727	
	5600.00	1077	1667	2085	2352	2567	2743	
316								

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	HB 1571							2007
317	5650.00	1083	1676	2097	2365	2582	2759	
318	5700.00	1089	1686	2109	2379	2597	2775	
	5750.00	1096	1695	2122	2393	2612	2791	
319	5800.00	1102	1705	2134	2406	2627	2807	
320	5850.00	1107	1713	2144	2418	2639	2820	
321	5900.00	1111	1721	2155	2429	2651	2833	
322	5950.00	1116	1729	2165	2440	2663	2847	
323	6000.00	1121	1737	2175	2451	2676	2860	
324	6050.00	1126	1746	2185	2462	2688	2874	
325	6100.00	1131	1754	2196	2473	2700	2887	
326	6150.00	1136	1762	2206	2484	2712	2900	
327	6200.00			2216			2914	
328	6250.00		1778					
329				2227	2506	2737	2927	
330	6300.00	1150	1786	2237	2517	2749	2941	

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	HB 1571							2007
331	6350.00	1155	1795	2247	2529	2761	2954	
332	6400.00	1160	1803	2258	2540	2773	2967	
	6450.00	1165	1811	2268	2551	2785	2981	
333	6500.00	1170	1819	2278	2562	2798	2994	
334	6550.00	1175	1827	2288	2573	2810	3008	
335	6600.00	1179	1835	2299	2584	2822	3021	
336	6650.00	1184	1843	2309	2595	2834	3034	
337	6700.00	1189	1850	2317	2604	2845	3045	
338	6750.00	1193	1856	2325	2613	2854	3055	
339	6800.00	1196	1862	2332	2621	2863	3064	
340								
341	6850.00	1200	1868	2340	2630	2872	3074	
342	6900.00	1204	1873	2347	2639	2882	3084	
343	6950.00	1208	1879	2355	2647	2891	3094	
344	7000.00	1212	1885	2362	2656	2900	3103	

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	HB 1571							2007
345	7050.00	1216	1891	2370	2664	2909	3113	
	7100.00	1220	1897	2378	2673	2919	3123	
346	7150.00	1224	1903	2385	2681	2928	3133	
347	7200.00	1228	1909	2393	2690	2937	3142	
348	7250.00	1232	1915	2400	2698	2946	3152	
349	7300.00	1235	1921	2408	2707	2956	3162	
350	7350.00	1239	1927	2415	2716	2965	3172	
351								
352	7400.00	1243	1933	2423	2724	2974	3181	
353	7450.00	1247	1939	2430	2733	2983	3191	
354	7500.00	1251	1945	2438	2741	2993	3201	
355	7550.00	1255	1951	2446	2750	3002	3211	
	7600.00	1259	1957	2453	2758	3011	3220	
356	7650.00	1263	1963	2461	2767	3020	3230	
357	7700.00	1267	1969	2468	2775	3030	3240	
358								

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	HB 1571							2007
359	7750.00	1271	1975	2476	2784	3039	3250	
360	7800.00	1274	1981	2483	2792	3048	3259	
	7850.00	1278	1987	2491	2801	3057	3269	
361	7900.00	1282	1992	2498	2810	3067	3279	
362	7950.00	1286	1998	2506	2818	3076	3289	
363	8000.00	1290	2004	2513	2827	3085	3298	
364	8050.00	1294	2010	2521	2835	3094	3308	
365	8100.00	1298	2016	2529	2844	3104	3318	
366	8150.00	1302	2022	2536	2852	3113	3328	
367	8200.00	1306	2028	2544	2861	3122	3337	
368								
369	8250.00	1310	2034	2551	2869	3131	3347	
370	8300.00	1313	2040	2559	2878	3141	3357	
371	8350.00	1317	2046	2566	2887	3150	3367	
372	8400.00	1321	2052	2574	2895	3159	3376	
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	HB 1571							2007
373	8450.00	1325	2058	2581	2904	3168	3386	
374	8500.00	1329	2064	2589	2912	3178	3396	
	8550.00	1333	2070	2597	2921	3187	3406	
375	8600.00	1337	2076	2604	2929	3196	3415	
376	8650.00	1341	2082	2612	2938	3205	3425	
377	8700.00	1345	2088	2619	2946	3215	3435	
378	8750.00	1349	2094	2627	2955	3224	3445	
379	8800.00	1352	2100	2634	2963	3233	3454	
380	8850.00	1356	2106	2642	2972	3242	3464	
381	8900.00	1360	2111	2649	2981	3252	3474	
382	8950.00	1364	2117	2657	2989	3261	3484	
383	9000.00	1368	2123	2664	2998	3270	3493	
384	9050.00	1372	2129	2672	3006	3279	3503	
385	9100.00	1376	2135	2680	3015	3289	3513	
386								

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	HB 1571							2007
387	9150.00	1380	2141	2687	3023	3298	3523	
	9200.00	1384	2147	2695	3032	3307	3532	
388	9250.00	1388	2153	2702	3040	3316	3542	
389	9300.00	1391	2159	2710	3049	3326	3552	
390	9350.00	1395	2165	2717	3058	3335	3562	
391	9400.00	1399	2171	2725	3066	3344	3571	
392	9450.00	1403	2177	2732	3075	3353	3581	
393								
394	9500.00	1407	2183	2740	3083	3363	3591	
395	9550.00	1411	2189	2748	3092	3372	3601	
396	9600.00	1415	2195	2755	3100	3381	3610	
397	9650.00	1419	2201	2763	3109	3390	3620	
398	9700.00	1422	2206	2767	3115	3396	3628	
	9750.00	1425	2210	2772	3121	3402	3634	
399	9800.00	1427	2213	2776	3126	3408	3641	
400								

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	HB 1571						2007
	9850.00	1430	2217	2781	3132	3414	3647
401							
	9900.00	1432	2221	2786	3137	3420	3653
402							
	9950.00	1435	2225	2791	3143	3426	3659
403							
	10000.00	1437	2228	2795	3148	3432	3666
404							
405	For combin	ed monthl	y availak	ole income	less tha	n the amo	ount set
406	out on the	above so	chedules,	the parent	should	be ordere	d to pay
407	a child support amount, determined on a case-by-case basis, to						
408	establish the principle of payment and lay the basis for						
409	increased orders should the parent's income increase in the						
410	future. For combined monthly available income greater than the						
411	amount set out in the above schedules, the obligation shall be						
412	the minimum amount of support provided by the guidelines						
413	schedules plus the following percentages multiplied by the						
414	amount of income over \$10,000:						
415							
	Child or Children						
416							
	One	Two	Three	Four	Fi	ve	Six
417							
	5.0%	7.5%	9.5%	11.0	% 12	.0%	12.5%
418							
419	These perc	entages s	shall not	be used to	determi:	ne child	support
420	beyond the	amount n	necessary	to satisfy	the rea	sonable n	eeds of
421	the child or children.						

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(7) Child care costs incurred on behalf of the children due to employment, job search, or education calculated to result in employment or to enhance income of current employment of either parent shall be reduced by 25 percent and then shall be added to the basic obligation. After the adjusted child care costs are added to the basic obligation, any moneys prepaid by the noncustodial parent for child care costs for the child or children of this action shall be deducted from that noncustodial parent's child support obligation for that child or those children. Child care costs shall not exceed the level required to provide quality care from a licensed source for the children.

- (8) Health insurance costs resulting from coverage ordered pursuant to s. 61.13(1)(b), and any noncovered medical, dental, and prescription medication expenses of the child, shall be added to the basic obligation unless these expenses have been ordered to be separately paid on a percentage basis. After the health insurance costs are added to the basic obligation, any moneys prepaid by the noncustodial parent for health-related costs for the child or children of this action shall be deducted from that noncustodial parent's child support obligation for that child or those children.
- (9) Each parent's percentage share of the child support need shall be determined by dividing each parent's net monthly income by the combined net monthly income.
- (10) The total minimum child support need shall be determined by adding child care costs and health insurance costs to the minimum child support need. Each parent's actual dollar share of the total minimum child support need shall be

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determined by multiplying the minimum child support need by each parent's percentage share of the combined monthly net income.

- (11)(a) The court may adjust the <u>total</u> minimum child support award, or either or both parents' share of the <u>total</u> minimum child support award, based upon the following <u>deviation</u> factors considerations:
- 1. Extraordinary medical, psychological, educational, or dental expenses.
- 2. Independent income of the child, not to include moneys received by a child from supplemental security income.
- 3. The payment of support for a parent which regularly has been paid and for which there is a demonstrated need.
- 4. Seasonal variations in one or both parents' incomes or expenses.
- 5. The age of the child, taking into account the greater needs of older children.
- 6. Special needs, such as costs that may be associated with the disability of a child, that have traditionally been met within the family budget even though the fulfilling of those needs will cause the support to exceed the presumptive amount established by the proposed guidelines schedules.
- 7. Total available assets of the obligee, obligor, and the child.
- 8. The impact of the Internal Revenue Service dependency exemption and waiver of that exemption and the impact of any federal child care tax credit. The court may order the primary residential parent to execute a waiver of the Internal Revenue Service dependency exemption if the noncustodial parent is

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current in support payments.

- 9. When application of the child support guidelines schedules requires a person to pay another person more than 55 percent of his or her gross income for a child support obligation for current support resulting from a single support order.
- 10. The particular <u>parenting shared parental</u> arrangement, such as where the child spends a significant amount of time, but less than <u>20</u> 40 percent of the overnights, with the noncustodial parent, thereby reducing the financial expenditures incurred by the primary residential parent; or the refusal of the noncustodial parent to become involved in the activities of the child.
- 11. Any other adjustment which is needed to achieve an equitable result which may include, but not be limited to, a reasonable and necessary existing expense or debt. Such expense or debt may include, but is not limited to, a reasonable and necessary expense or debt which the parties jointly incurred during the marriage.
- (b) Whenever a particular <u>parenting</u> shared parental arrangement provides that each child spend a substantial amount of time with each parent, the court shall adjust any award of child support, as follows:
- 1. In accordance with subsections (9) and (10), calculate the amount of support obligation apportioned to the noncustodial parent without including day care and health insurance costs in the calculation and multiply the amount by 1.5.
 - 2. In accordance with subsections (9) and (10), calculate Page 25 of 34

the amount of support obligation apportioned to the custodial parent without including day care and health insurance costs in the calculation and multiply the amount by 1.5.

- 3. Calculate the percentage of overnight stays the child spends with each parent.
- 4. Multiply the noncustodial parent's support obligation as calculated in subparagraph 1. by the percentage of the custodial parent's overnight stays with the child as calculated in subparagraph 3.
- 5. Multiply the custodial parent's support obligation as calculated in subparagraph 2. by the percentage of the noncustodial parent's overnight stays with the child as calculated in subparagraph 3.
- 6. The difference between the amounts calculated in subparagraphs 4. and 5. shall be the monetary transfer necessary between the custodial and noncustodial parents for the care of the child, subject to an adjustment for day care and health insurance expenses.
- 7. Pursuant to subsections (7) and (8), calculate the net amounts owed by the custodial and noncustodial parents for the expenses incurred for day care and health insurance coverage for the child. Day care shall be calculated without regard to the 25 percent reduction applied by subsection (7).
- 8. Adjust the support obligation owed by the custodial or noncustodial parent pursuant to subparagraph 6. by crediting or debiting the amount calculated in subparagraph 7. This amount represents the child support which must be exchanged between the custodial and noncustodial parents. However, if the amount to be

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paid is more than the child support that would be paid had the child support been calculated without adjustment for substantial parenting time, the court shall order child support to be paid without making the otherwise mandatory adjustment required by this paragraph.

- 9. The court may deviate from the child support amount calculated pursuant to subparagraph 8. based upon the <u>deviation</u> factors considerations set forth in paragraph (a), as well as the custodial parent's low income and ability to maintain the basic necessities of the home for the child, the likelihood that the noncustodial parent will actually exercise the visitation granted by the court, and whether all of the children are exercising the same <u>parenting shared parental</u> arrangement.
- 10. For purposes of adjusting any award of child support under this paragraph, "substantial amount of time" means that the noncustodial parent exercises visitation at least $\underline{20}$ $\underline{40}$ percent of the overnights of the year.
- (c) A noncustodial parent's failure to regularly exercise court-ordered or agreed visitation not caused by the custodial parent which resulted in the adjustment of the amount of child support pursuant to subparagraph (a)10. or paragraph (b) shall be deemed a substantial change of circumstances for purposes of modifying the child support award. A modification pursuant to this paragraph shall be retroactive to the date the noncustodial parent first failed to regularly exercise court-ordered or agreed visitation.
- (d) A split parenting arrangement exists when there is more than one child in common and each parent has the majority

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of the overnight timesharing for one or more of the children. In cases involving split parenting arrangements, the court shall calculate and order child support as follows:

- 1. The court shall make two separate child support calculations, one for each child or group of children residing for a majority of the overnights with each parent.
- 2. The obligations arising from each initial child support calculation shall be offset. The lower support obligation shall be subtracted from the higher support obligation to determine the split parenting child support obligation.
- 3. The parent owing the greater amount of child support in subparagraph 1. shall pay the split parenting child support obligation to the other parent.
- (12)(a) A parent with a support obligation may have other children living with him or her who were born or adopted after the support obligation arose. If such subsequent children exist, the court, when considering an upward modification of an existing award, may disregard the income from secondary employment obtained in addition to the parent's primary employment if the court determines that the employment was obtained primarily to support the subsequent children.
- (b) Except as provided in paragraph (a), the existence of such subsequent children should not as a general rule be considered by the court as a basis for disregarding the amount provided in the guidelines <u>schedules</u>. The parent with a support obligation for subsequent children may raise the existence of such subsequent children as a justification for deviation from the guidelines <u>schedules</u>. However, if the existence of such

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subsequent children is raised, the income of the other parent of the subsequent children shall be considered by the court in determining whether or not there is a basis for deviation from the guidelines schedules guideline amount.

- (c) The issue of subsequent children under paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) may only be raised in a proceeding for an upward modification of an existing award and may not be applied to justify a decrease in an existing award.
- (13) If the recurring income is not sufficient to meet the needs of the child, the court may order child support to be paid from nonrecurring income or assets.
- (14) Every petition for child support or for modification of child support shall be accompanied by an affidavit which shows the party's income, allowable deductions, and net income computed in accordance with this section. The affidavit shall be served at the same time that the petition is served. The respondent, whether or not a stipulation is entered, shall make an affidavit which shows the party's income, allowable deductions, and net income computed in accordance with this section. The respondent shall include his or her affidavit with the answer to the petition or as soon thereafter as is practicable, but in any case at least 72 hours prior to any hearing on the finances of either party.
- (15) For purposes of establishing an obligation for support in accordance with this section, if a person who is receiving public assistance is found to be noncooperative as defined in s. 409.2572, the IV-D agency is authorized to submit to the court an affidavit attesting to the income of the

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custodial parent based upon information available to the IV-D agency.

- (16) The Legislature shall review the guidelines <u>schedules</u> established in this section at least every 4 years beginning in 1997.
- (17) In an initial determination of child support, whether in a paternity action, dissolution of marriage action, or petition for support during the marriage, the court has discretion to award child support retroactive to the date when the parents did not reside together in the same household with the child, not to exceed a period of 24 months preceding the filing of the petition, regardless of whether that date precedes the filing of the petition. In determining the retroactive award in such cases, the court shall consider the following:
- (a) The court shall apply the guidelines <u>schedules</u> in effect at the time of the hearing subject to the obligor's demonstration of his or her actual income, as defined by subsection (2), during the retroactive period. Failure of the obligor to so demonstrate shall result in the court using the obligor's income at the time of the hearing in computing child support for the retroactive period.
- (b) All actual payments made by the noncustodial parent to the custodial parent or the child or third parties for the benefit of the child throughout the proposed retroactive period.
- (c) The court should consider an installment payment plan for the payment of retroactive child support.
- Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section 409.2563, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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409.2563 Administrative establishment of child support obligations.--

(5) PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT ORDER. --

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After serving notice upon the noncustodial parent in accordance with subsection (4), the department shall calculate the noncustodial parent's child support obligation under the child support quidelines schedules as provided by s. 61.30, based on any timely financial affidavits received and other information available to the department. If either parent fails to comply with the requirement to furnish a financial affidavit, the department may proceed on the basis of information available from any source, if such information is sufficiently reliable and detailed to allow calculation of quideline amounts under s. 61.30. If the custodial parent receives public assistance and fails to submit a financial affidavit, the department may submit a financial affidavit for the custodial parent pursuant to s. 61.30(15). If there is a lack of sufficient reliable information concerning a parent's actual earnings for a current or past period, it shall be presumed for the purpose of establishing a support obligation that the parent had an earning capacity equal to the Florida federal minimum wage on a full-time basis during the applicable period, unless the parent shows that he or she is a resident of another state, in which case the state minimum wage applicable to the parent's state of residence shall apply if it is greater than the Florida minimum wage. In the absence of a state minimum wage or if the other state's minimum wage is lower than the Florida minimum wage, the federal minimum wage shall apply.

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Section 4. Subsection (10) of section 409.2564, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

409.2564 Actions for support. --

- (10) For the purposes of denial, revocation, or limitation of an individual's United States passport, consistent with 42 U.S.C. s. 652(k)(1), the Title IV-D agency shall have procedures to certify to the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, in the format and accompanied by such supporting documentation as the secretary may require, a determination that an individual owes arrearages of support in an amount exceeding $\frac{$2,500}{$5,000}$. Said procedures shall provide that the individual be given notice of the determination and of the consequence thereof and that the individual shall be given an opportunity to contest the accuracy of the determination.
- Section 5. Section 409.25641, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 409.25641 Procedures for processing automated administrative enforcement requests.--
- (1) The <u>department</u> Title IV-D agency shall use automated administrative enforcement, as defined in <u>Title IV-D of</u> the Social Security Act, in response to a request from another state to enforce a support order and shall promptly report the results of enforcement action to the requesting state.
 - (2) This request:
- (b) Shall contain sufficient identifying information to allow comparison with the databases within the state which are

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available to the department. Title IV D agency; and

- (c) Shall constitute a certification by the requesting state:
 - 1. Of the amount of arrearage accrued under the order; and
- 2. That the requesting state has complied with all procedural due process requirements applicable to the case.
- (3) If assistance is provided by the <u>department</u> Title IV D agency to another state as prescribed above, <u>the department may not neither state shall</u> consider the case to be transferred from the caseload of the other state to the caseload of the <u>department</u>, but the department may establish a corresponding case based on the other state's request for assistance Title IV D agency.
- (4) The <u>department</u> Title IV D agency shall maintain a record of:
 - (a) The number of requests received;
- (b) The number of cases for which the <u>department</u> Title IV— Dagency collected support in response to such a request; and
 - (c) The amount of such collected support.
- (5) The department shall have authority to adopt rules to implement this section.
- Section 6. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall evaluate the effectiveness of the system currently used for complying with the federal requirement that each state review its child support guidelines at least once every 4 years. The evaluation shall include a comparison of all available methodologies being utilized by other states in conducting their reviews of their child support

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guidelines and include recommendations for either maintaining
the current review process with the Legislature or transferring
the responsibility to another entity. A report shall be
submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 31, 2008.
Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

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