

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate House Comm: RS 4/1/2008

The Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs (Lynn) recommended the following amendment:

Senate Amendment (with title amendments)

Delete line(s) 1261-1781

and insert:

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Section 16. Section 61.30, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

61.30 Child support guidelines; retroactive child support.--

The child support guideline amount as determined by (1)(a) 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

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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 quideline 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 guideline 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 either parent the primary and secondary residential parents. This requirement applies to any living arrangement, whether temporary or permanent.

- The guidelines 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 shall be at least 15 percent or \$50, whichever amount is greater, before the court may find that the guidelines 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.
- Income shall be determined on a monthly basis for each parent the obligor and for the obligee as follows:

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- (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.
- 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.
 - Disability benefits.
 - 5. All workers' compensation benefits and settlements.
 - 6. Unemployment compensation.
 - 7. Pension, retirement, or annuity payments.
 - 8. Social security benefits.
- Spousal support received from a previous marriage or court ordered in the marriage before the court.
 - 10. Interest and dividends.
- Rental income, which is gross receipts minus ordinary and necessary expenses required to produce the income.
 - Income from royalties, trusts, or estates. 12.
- 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.
- 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

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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 a child support calculation.

- (c) Public assistance as defined in s. 409.2554 shall be excluded from gross income.
- Net income is obtained by subtracting allowable deductions from gross income. Allowable deductions 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-employment tax.
 - (c) Mandatory union dues.
 - (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.
- Spousal support paid pursuant to a court order from a previous marriage or the marriage before the court.
- (4) Net income for each parent the obligor and net income for the obligee shall be computed by subtracting allowable deductions from gross income.
- (5) Net income for each parent the obligor and net income for the obligee shall be added together for a combined net income.

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124									ı
	1200.00		280	435	544	588	594	600	
125	1250.00		290	451	565	634	641	648	
126	1300.00		300	467	584	659	688	695	
127	1350.00		310	482	603	681	735	743	
128	1400.00		320	498	623	702	765	790	
129	1450.00		330	513	642	724	789	838	
130	1500.00		340	529	662	746	813	869	
131	1550.00		350	544	681	768	836	895	
132									
133	1600.00		360	560	701	790	860	920	
134	1650.00		370	575	720	812	884	945	
135	1700.00		380	591	740	833	907	971	
136	1750.00		390	606	759	855	931	996	
137	1800.00		400	622	779	877	955	1022	
138	1850.00		410	638	798	900	979	1048	
. 2 0	1900.00			654		923	1004	1074	
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	1950.00		431	670	839	946	1029	1101
140	2000.00		442	686	859	968	1054	1128
141	2050.00		452	702	879	991	1079	1154
142	2100.00		463	718	899	1014	1104	1181
143								
144	2150.00		473	734	919	1037	1129	1207
145	2200.00		484	751	940	1060	1154	1234
146	2250.00		494	767	960	1082	1179	1261
	2300.00		505	783	980	1105	1204	1287
147	2350.00		515	799	1000	1128	1229	1314
148	2400.00		526	815	1020	1151	1254	1340
149	2450.00		536	831	1041	1174	1279	1367
150								
151	2500.00		547	847	1061	1196	1304	1394
152	2550.00		557	864	1081	1219	1329	1420
153	2600.00		568	880	1101	1242	1354	1447
100	2650.00			896		1265	1379	1473
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154	2700.00		588	912	1141	1287	1403	1500
155	2750.00		597	927	1160	1308	1426	1524
156	2800.00		607	941	1178	1328	1448	1549
157	2850.00		616	956	1197	1349	1471	1573
158	2900.00		626	971	1215	1370	1494	1598
159	2950.00		635	986	1234	1391	1517	1622
160	3000.00		644	1001	1252	1412	1540	1647
161	3050.00		654	1016	1271	1433	1563	1671
162	3100.00		663	1031	1289	1453	1586	1695
163	3150.00		673	1045	1308	1474	1608	1720
164	3200.00		682	1060	1327	1495	1631	1744
165	3250.00		691	1075			1654	
166	3300.00			1090			1677	
167	3350.00			1105			1700	
168	3400.00			1120			1723	
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169	3450.00		729	1135	1419	1599	1745	1867	Ī
170	3500.00		738	1149	1438	1620	1768	1891	
171	3550.00		748	1164			1791		
172									
173	3600.00		757	1179	1475	1662	1814	1940	
174	3650.00		767	1194	1493	1683	1837	1964	
175	3700.00		776	1208	1503	1702	1857	1987	
176	3750.00		784	1221	1520	1721	1878	2009	
	3800.00		793	1234	1536	1740	1899	2031	
177	3850.00		802	1248	1553	1759	1920	2053	
178	3900.00		811	1261	1570	1778	1940	2075	
179	3950.00		819	1275	1587	1797	1961	2097	
180	4000.00		828	1288	1603	1816	1982	2119	
181	4050.00		837	1302	1620	1835	2002	2141	
182	4100.00			1315			2023		
183									
	4150.00			1329		18/3	2044	Z185	
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184	4200.00		863	1342	1670	1892	2064	2207	Ī
185	4250.00		872		1687		2085	2229	
186									
187	4300.00		881	1369	1704	1930	2106	2251	
188	4350.00		889	1382	1721	1949	2127	2273	
189	4400.00		898	1396	1737	1968	2147	2295	
	4450.00		907	1409	1754	1987	2168	2317	
190	4500.00		916	1423	1771	2006	2189	2339	
191	4550.00		924	1436	1788	2024	2209	2361	
192	4600.00		933	1450	1804	2043	2230	2384	
193	4650.00		942	1463		2062	2251	2406	
194									
195	4700.00		951	1477	1838	2081	2271	2428	
196	4750.00		959	1490	1855	2100	2292	2450	
197	4800.00		968	1503	1871	2119	2313	2472	
	4850.00		977	1517	1888	2138	2334	2494	
198	4900.00		986	1530	1905	2157	2354	2516	
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199								ĺ
200	4950.00		993	1542	1927	2174	2372	2535
	5000.00		1000	1551	1939	2188	2387	2551
201	5050.00		1006	1561	1952	2202	2402	2567
202	5100.00		1013	1571	1964	2215	2417	2583
203	5150.00		1019	1580	1976	2229	2432	2599
204	5200.00		1025	1590	1988	2243	2447	2615
205	5250.00		1032	1599	2000	2256	2462	2631
206								
207	5300.00			1609			2477	
208	5350.00		1045	1619	2024	2283	2492	2663
209	5400.00		1051	1628	2037	2297	2507	2679
210	5450.00		1057	1638	2049	2311	2522	2695
211	5500.00		1064	1647	2061	2324	2537	2711
212	5550.00		1070	1657	2073	2338	2552	2727
	5600.00		1077	1667	2085	2352	2567	2743
213	5650.00		1083	1676	2097	2365	2582	2759
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214								
215	5700.00		1089	1686	2109	2379	2597	2775
	5750.00		1096	1695	2122	2393	2612	2791
216	5800.00		1102	1705	2134	2406	2627	2807
217	5850.00		1107	1713	2144	2418	2639	2820
218	5900.00		1111	1721	2155	2420	2651	2022
219	3900.00		1111	1/21	2133	2429	2031	2033
220	5950.00		1116	1729	2165	2440	2663	2847
221	6000.00		1121	1737	2175	2451	2676	2860
	6050.00		1126	1746	2185	2462	2688	2874
222	6100.00		1131	1754	2196	2473	2700	2887
223	6150.00		1136	1762	2206	2484	2712	2900
224	6200.00		1141	1770	2216	2495	2724	2914
225	6250.00		1115	1778	2227	2506	2737	2027
226								
227	6300.00		1150	1786	2237	2517	2749	2941
228	6350.00		1155	1795	2247	2529	2761	2954
	6400.00			1803		2540	2773	2967
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222								
229	6450.00		1165	1811	2268	2551	2785	2981
230	6500.00		1170	1819	2278	2562	2798	2994
231	6550.00		1175	1827	2288	2573	2810	3008
232	6600.00		1179	1835	2299	2584	2822	3021
233	6650.00		1184	1843	2309	2595	2834	3034
234	6700.00		1189	1850	2317	2604	2845	3045
235	6750.00		1193	1856	2325	2613	2854	3055
236	6800.00		1196	1862	2332	2621	2863	3064
237	6850.00		1200	1868	2340	2630	2872	3074
238	6900.00		1204	1873	2347	2639	2882	3084
239	6950.00		1208	1879	2355	2647	2891	3094
240	7000.00		1212	1885	2362	2656	2900	3103
241	7050.00		1216	1891	2370	2664	2909	3113
242	7100.00		1220	1897	2378	2673	2919	3123
243	7150.00		1224	1903	2385	2681	2928	3133
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244									
245	7200.00		1228	1909	2393	2690	2937	3142	
246	7250.00		1232	1915	2400	2698	2946	3152	
246	7300.00		1235	1921	2408	2707	2956	3162	
247	7350.00		1239	1927	2415	2716	2965	3172	
248									
249	7400.00		1243	1933	2423	2724	2974	3181	
250	7450.00		1247	1939	2430	2733	2983	3191	
250	7500.00		1251	1945	2438	2741	2993	3201	
251	7550.00		1255	1951	2446	2750	3002	3211	
252									
253	7600.00		1259	1957	2453	2758	3011	3220	
254	7650.00		1263	1963	2461	2767	3020	3230	
254	7700.00		1267	1969	2468	2775	3030	3240	
255	7750.00		1271	1975	2476	2784	3039	3250	
256									
257	7800.00		1274	1981	2483	2792	3048	3259	
258	7850.00		1278	1987	2491	2801	3057	3269	
230	7900.00		1282	1992	2498	2810	3067	3279	
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259	7950.00		1286	1998	2506	2818	3076	3289
260	8000.00		1290	2004	2513	2827	3085	3298
262	8050.00		1294	2010	2521	2835	3094	3308
263	8100.00		1298	2016	2529	2844	3104	3318
264	8150.00		1302	2022	2536	2852	3113	3328
265	8200.00		1306	2028	2544	2861	3122	3337
266	8250.00		1310	2034	2551	2869	3131	3347
267	8300.00		1313	2040	2559	2878	3141	3357
268	8350.00			2046				
269	8400.00			2052			3159	
270	8450.00 8500.00		1325	2058		2904	3168 3178	3386
271	8550.00			2070			3170	
272	8600.00			2076			3196	
273	8650.00		1341	2082	2612	2938	3205	3425
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274								
275	8700.00		1345	2088	2619	2946	3215	3435
	8750.00		1349	2094	2627	2955	3224	3445
276	8800.00		1352	2100	2634	2963	3233	3454
277	8850.00		1356	2106	2642	2972	3242	3464
278								
279	8900.00		1360	2111	2649	2981	3252	3474
280	8950.00		1364	2117	2657	2989	3261	3484
281	9000.00		1368	2123	2664	2998	3270	3493
	9050.00		1372	2129	2672	3006	3279	3503
282	9100.00		1376	2135	2680	3015	3289	3513
283	9150.00		1380	2141	2687	3023	3298	3523
284								
285	9200.00		1384	2147	2695	3032	3307	3532
286	9250.00		1388	2153	2702	3040	3316	3542
287	9300.00		1391	2159	2710	3049	3326	3552
	9350.00		1395	2165	2717	3058	3335	3562
288	9400.00		1399	2171	2725	3066	3344	3571
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289								
	9450.00	1403	2177	2732		3075	3353	3581
290								
	9500.00	1407	2183	2740		3083	3363	3591
291								
	9550.00	1411	2189	2748		3092	3372	3601
292								
	9600.00	1415	2195	2755		3100	3381	3610
293								
0.0.4	9650.00	1419	2201	2763		3109	3390	3620
294	0700 00	1 400	2206	07.67		2115	2206	2620
295	9700.00	1422	2206	2/0/		3115	3396	3028
290	9750.00	1425	2210	2772		3121	3402	3634
296	3730.00	1120	2210	2,72		9121	3102	3031
	9800.00	1427	2213	2776		3126	3408	3641
297								
	9850.00	1430	2217	2781		3132	3414	3647
298								
	9900.00	1432	2221	2786		3137	3420	3653
299								
	9950.00	1435	2225	2791		3143	3426	3659
300								
	10000.00	1437	2228	2795		3148	3432	3666
301								
302	For combined monthly	availabl	e <u>net</u>	income	less	than the	amoui	nt

303 set out on the above guidelines schedule schedules, the parent should be ordered to pay a child support amount, determined on a case-by-case basis, to establish the principle of payment and lay the basis for increased orders should the parent's income

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increase in the future. For combined monthly available net income greater than the amount set out in the above guidelines schedule schedules, the obligation shall be the minimum amount of support provided by the guidelines schedule plus the following percentages multiplied by the amount of income over \$10,000:

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Child or Children

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5.0% 7.5% 9.5%

11.0% 12.0% 12.5%

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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 a $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 a the noncustodial parent for health-related costs for

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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) Each parent's actual dollar share of the total minimum child support need shall be 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 total minimum child support award, or either or both parents' share of the total minimum child support award, based upon the following deviation factors considerations:
- Extraordinary medical, psychological, educational, or dental expenses.
- Independent income of the child, not to include moneys received by a child from supplemental security income.
- 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.
- 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.

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- 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. The court may order a the primary residential parent to execute a waiver of the Internal Revenue Service dependency exemption if the noncustodial parent from whom support is being sought is current in support payments.
- 9. When application of the child support guidelines schedule 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 parenting plan shared parental arrangement, such as where the child spends a significant amount of time, but less than 40 percent of the overnights, with one the noncustodial parent, thereby reducing the financial expenditures incurred by the other primary residential parent; or the refusal of a 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 parenting plan 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:
- In accordance with subsections (9) and (10), calculate the amount of support obligation apportioned to each the

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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 the amount of support obligation apportioned to the custodial parent seeking support 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 each the noncustodial parent's support obligation as calculated in subparagraph 1. by the percentage of the other custodial parent's overnight stays with the child as calculated in subparagraph 3.
- 5. Multiply the custodial parent's support obligation of the parent seeking support as calculated in subparagraph 2. by the percentage of the noncustodial other parent's overnight stays with the child as calculated in subparagraph 3.
- 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 each parent 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)**.

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- 8. Adjust the support obligation owed by each 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.
- 9. The court may deviate from the child support amount calculated pursuant to subparagraph 8. based upon the deviation factors considerations set forth in paragraph (a), as well as either the custodial parent's low income and ability to maintain the basic necessities of the home for the child, the likelihood that either the noncustodial parent will actually exercise the time-sharing schedule set forth in the parenting plan visitation granted by the court, and whether all of the children are exercising the same time-sharing schedule shared parental arrangement.
- 10. For purposes of adjusting any award of child support under this paragraph, "substantial amount of time" means that a the noncustodial parent exercises visitation at least 40 percent of the overnights of the year.
- (c) A noncustodial parent's failure to regularly exercise court-ordered or agreed time-sharing schedule visitation not caused by the other 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 time-sharing schedule visitation.

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- (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 schedule. 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 schedule. However, if the existence of such 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 guideline amount.
- 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.
- 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

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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 that the custodial parent based upon information available to the IV-D agency.
- (16) The Legislature shall review the guidelines schedule established in this section at least every 4 years beginning in 1997.
- 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:
- The court shall apply the guidelines schedule 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.

- All actual payments made by a the noncustodial parent to the other custodial parent or the child or third parties for the benefit of the child throughout the proposed retroactive period.
- The court should consider an installment payment plan for the payment of retroactive child support.

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And the title is amended as follows: Delete line(s) 29-35

> and insert: terminology; amending s. 61.30, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes in terminology; amending

ss. 61.401, 61.45, 409.2554, and 409.2558,