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A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to child support enforcement; amending 3 s. 61.13, F.S.; providing that in Title IV-D cases an 4 affidavit seeking to require payments be made through 5 the State Disbursement Unit need not allege a default 6 in support payments and default is not required; 7 amending s. 61.13016, F.S.; providing that a child 8 support obligor may avoid the suspension of his or her driver license and motor vehicle registration by 9 10 beginning to pay his or her obligation by income 11 deduction within a specified period; authorizing rather than requiring the Title IV-D agency, or the 12 13 depository or clerk of the court, to request the 14 suspension of the obligor's driver license and motor 15 vehicle registration if a delinquent obligor fails to 16 take a specified action within a certain period after notice of default; amending s. 322.058, F.S.; 17 providing that a child support obligor may avoid the 18 19 suspension of his or her driver license and motor vehicle registration by beginning to pay his or her 20 21 obligation by income deduction within a specified 22 period; amending s. 409.256, F.S.; authorizing a 23 child's caregiver, in addition to a child's mother, to 24 make an affidavit or declaration that the child's 25 putative father is or may be the child's biological 26 father; amending s. 409.2563, F.S.; revising the time 27 period in which a parent from whom support is sought 28 may request an informal discussion of a proposed

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29 administrative support order; amending s. 409.25656, F.S.; providing that certain notices may be sent by 30 31 regular rather than certified or registered mail; 32 providing that a garnishee may consent to receive certain notices by secure e-mail or fax; requiring 33 34 establishment of an automated method for the Chief 35 Financial Officer to periodically provide the 36 Department of Revenue an electronic file of 37 individuals to whom the state pays money for goods or 38 services or who lease real property to the state; 39 requiring garnishment of such payments for past due or overdue support; deleting provisions requiring the 40 Department of Revenue to provide certain information 41 42 to the Chief Financial Officer for such purpose; 43 amending s. 409.25658, F.S.; providing that certain 44 notices may be sent by regular rather than certified mail; revising provisions concerning use of unclaimed 45 property for collection of past due support; amending 46 47 s. 409.2575, F.S.; revising language concerning who may cause certain liens to be placed for unpaid and 48 49 delinquent support; authorizing liens on a claim, 50 settlement, or judgment that may result in payment to 51 the obligor; providing for notice to the obligor; 52 providing requirements for such notice; providing effective dates. 53 54 55 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 56

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61

57 Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section 58 61.13, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

59 61.13 Support of children; parenting and time-sharing;60 powers of court.-

(1)

(d)1. All child support orders shall provide the full name
and date of birth of each minor child who is the subject of the
child support order.

If both parties request and the court finds that it is 65 2. in the best interest of the child, support payments need not be 66 subject to immediate income deduction. Support orders that are 67 68 not subject to immediate income deduction may be directed through the depository under s. 61.181 or made payable directly 69 70 to the obligee. Payments made by immediate income deduction 71 shall be made to the State Disbursement Unit. The court shall 72 provide a copy of the order to the depository.

73 3. For support orders payable directly to the obligee, any 74 party, or the department in a IV-D case, may subsequently file 75 an affidavit with the depository alleging a default in payment 76 of child support and stating that the party wishes to require 77 that payments be made through the depository. For IV-D cases, 78 the affidavit need not allege a default in support payments and 79 default is not required. The party shall provide copies of the affidavit to the court and to each other party. Fifteen days 80 after receipt of the affidavit, the depository shall notify all 81 parties that future payments shall be paid through the 82 depository, except that payments in Title IV-D cases and income 83 84 deduction payments shall be made to the State Disbursement Unit. Page 3 of 18

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85 Section 2. Subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection 86 (2), and subsection (3) of section 61.13016, Florida Statutes, 87 are amended to read:

88 61.13016 Suspension of <u>driver</u> driver's licenses and motor 89 vehicle registrations.-

The driver driver's license and motor vehicle 90 (1)91 registration of a support obligor who is delinquent in payment 92 or who has failed to comply with subpoenas or a similar order to 93 appear or show cause relating to paternity or support 94 proceedings may be suspended. When an obligor is 15 days 95 delinquent making a payment in support or failure to comply with 96 a subpoena, order to appear, order to show cause, or similar 97 order in IV-D cases, the Title IV-D agency may provide notice to 98 the obligor of the delinguency or failure to comply with a subpoena, order to appear, order to show cause, or similar order 99 100 and the intent to suspend by regular United States mail that is posted to the obligor's last address of record with the 101 102 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. When an obligor 103 is 15 days delinquent in making a payment in support in non-IV-D 104 cases, and upon the request of the obligee, the depository or 105 the clerk of the court must provide notice to the obligor of the 106 delinquency and the intent to suspend by regular United States 107 mail that is posted to the obligor's last address of record with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. In either 108 109 case, the notice must state:

(a) The terms of the order creating the support obligation;

112

(b)

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The period of the delinquency and the total amount of

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113 the delinquency as of the date of the notice or describe the 114 subpoena, order to appear, order to show cause, or other similar 115 order <u>that</u> which has not been complied with;

(c) That notification <u>may</u> will be given to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to suspend the obligor's <u>driver</u> driver's license and motor vehicle registration unless, within 20 days after the date the notice is mailed, the obligor:

120 1.a. Pays the delinquency in full and any other costs and 121 fees accrued between the date of the notice and the date the 122 delinquency is paid;

b. Enters into a written agreement for payment with the obligee in non-IV-D cases or with the Title IV-D agency in IV-D cases; or in IV-D cases, complies with a subpoena or order to appear, order to show cause, or a similar order; or

127 c. Files a petition with the circuit court to contest the
 128 delinquency action; or and

d. Begins paying the delinquency by income deduction; and2. Pays any applicable delinquency fees.

132 If the obligor in non-IV-D cases enters into a written agreement 133 for payment before the expiration of the 20-day period, the 134 obligor must provide a copy of the signed written agreement to 135 the depository or the clerk of the court.

(2) (a) Upon petition filed by the obligor in the circuit court within 20 days after the mailing date of the notice, the court may, in its discretion, direct the department to issue a license for driving privileges restricted to business purposes only, as defined by s. 322.271, if the person is otherwise

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qualified for such a license. As a condition for the court to exercise its discretion under this subsection, the obligor must agree to a schedule of payment on any child support arrearages and to maintain current child support obligations. If the obligor fails to comply with the schedule of payment, the court shall direct the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to suspend the obligor's <u>driver</u> driver's license.

148 If the obligor does not, within 20 days after the (3) 149 mailing date on the notice, pay the delinquency; τ enter into a written payment agreement; - comply with the subpoena, order to 150 151 appear, order to show cause, or other similar order; begin 152 paying the delinquency by income deduction; τ or file a motion to 153 contest, the Title IV-D agency in IV-D cases, or the depository 154 or clerk of the court in non-IV-D cases, may shall file the notice with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles 155 156 and request the suspension of the obligor's driver driver's 157 license and motor vehicle registration in accordance with s. 158 322.058.

159 Section 3. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 322.058,160 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

161 322.058 Suspension of driving privileges due to support
162 delinquency; reinstatement.-

(1) When the department receives notice from the Title IV-D agency or depository or the clerk of the court that any person licensed to operate a motor vehicle in the State of Florida under the provisions of this chapter has a delinquent support obligation or has failed to comply with a subpoena, order to appear, order to show cause, or similar order, the department

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169 shall suspend the <u>driver</u> driver's license of the person named in 170 the notice and the registration of all motor vehicles owned by 171 that person.

(2) The department must reinstate the driving privilege and allow registration of a motor vehicle when the Title IV-D agency in IV-D cases or the depository or the clerk of the court in non-IV-D cases provides to the department an affidavit stating that:

177

(a) The person has paid the delinquency;

(b) The person has reached a written agreement for payment
with the Title IV-D agency or the obligee in non-IV-D cases;

(c) A court has entered an order granting relief to the obligor ordering the reinstatement of the license and motor vehicle registration; or

(d) The person has complied with the subpoena, order to
appear, order to show cause, or similar order; or

185 (e) The obligor is paying the delinquency by income 186 deduction.

Section 4. Effective July 1, 2012, paragraph (a) of subsection (2), paragraph (c) of subsection (4), and subsection (7) of section 409.256, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

190 409.256 Administrative proceeding to establish paternity 191 or paternity and child support; order to appear for genetic 192 testing.-

193 (2) JURISDICTION; LOCATION OF HEARINGS; RIGHT OF ACCESS TO 194 THE COURTS.-

(a) The department may commence a paternity proceeding ora paternity and child support proceeding as provided in

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197 subsection (4) if:

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1. The child's paternity has not been established.

199 2. No one is named as the father on the child's birth 200 certificate or the person named as the father is the putative 201 father named in an affidavit or a written declaration as 202 provided in subparagraph 5.

3. The child's mother was unmarried when the child wasconceived and born.

205

4. The department is providing services under Title IV-D.

5. The child's mother <u>or caregiver</u> or a putative father has stated in an affidavit, or in a written declaration as provided in s. 92.525(2), that the putative father is or may be the child's biological father. The affidavit or written declaration must set forth the factual basis for the allegation of paternity as provided in s. 742.12(2).

NOTICE OF PROCEEDING TO ESTABLISH PATERNITY OR 212 (4) 213 PATERNITY AND CHILD SUPPORT; ORDER TO APPEAR FOR GENETIC 214 TESTING; MANNER OF SERVICE; CONTENTS.-The Department of Revenue 215 shall commence a proceeding to determine paternity, or a 216 proceeding to determine both paternity and child support, by 217 serving the respondent with a notice as provided in this 218 section. An order to appear for genetic testing may be served at 219 the same time as a notice of the proceeding or may be served separately. A copy of the affidavit or written declaration upon 220 221 which the proceeding is based shall be provided to the 222 respondent when notice is served. A notice or order to appear 223 for genetic testing shall be served by certified mail, restricted delivery, return receipt requested, or in accordance 224 Page 8 of 18

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225 with the requirements for service of process in a civil action. 226 Service by certified mail is completed when the certified mail 227 is received or refused by the addressee or by an authorized 228 agent as designated by the addressee in writing. If a person 229 other than the addressee signs the return receipt, the 230 department shall attempt to reach the addressee by telephone to 231 confirm whether the notice was received, and the department 232 shall document any telephonic communications. If someone other 233 than the addressee signs the return receipt, the addressee does 234 not respond to the notice, and the department is unable to 235 confirm that the addressee has received the notice, service is 236 not completed and the department shall attempt to have the 237 addressee served personally. For purposes of this section, an 238 employee or an authorized agent of the department may serve the 239 notice or order to appear for genetic testing and execute an 240 affidavit of service. The department may serve an order to 241 appear for genetic testing on a caregiver. The department shall 242 provide a copy of the notice or order to appear by regular mail 243 to the mother and caregiver, if they are not respondents.

(c) The order to appear for genetic testing shall informthe person ordered to appear:

That the department has commenced an administrative
 proceeding to establish whether the putative father is the
 biological father of the child.

249 2. The name and date of birth of the child and the name of 250 the child's mother.

251 3. That the putative father has been named in an affidavit 252 or written declaration that states the putative father is or may Page 9 of 18

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253 be the child's biological father.

4. The date, time, and place that the person ordered to appear must appear to provide a sample for genetic testing.

5. That if the person has custody of the child whose
paternity is the subject of the proceeding, the person must
submit the child for genetic testing.

6. That when the samples are provided, the person ordered to appear shall verify his or her identity and the identity of the child, if applicable, by presenting a form of identification as prescribed by s. 117.05(5)(b)2. which bears the photograph of the person who is providing the sample or other form of verification approved by the department.

7. That if the person ordered to appear submits to genetic testing, the department shall pay the cost of the genetic testing and shall provide the person ordered to appear with a copy of any test results obtained.

8. That if the person ordered to appear does not appear as ordered or refuses to submit to genetic testing without good cause, the department may take one or more of the following actions:

a. Commence proceedings to suspend the <u>driver driver's</u>
license and motor vehicle registration of the person ordered to
appear, as provided in s. 61.13016;

b. Impose an administrative fine against the personordered to appear in the amount of \$500; or

c. File a petition in circuit court to establish paternity
and obtain a support order for the child and an order for costs
against the person ordered to appear, including costs for

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281 genetic testing.

9. That the person ordered to appear may contest the order by filing a written request for informal review within 15 days after the date of service of the order, with further rights to an administrative hearing following the informal review.

(7) FAILURE OR REFUSAL TO SUBMIT TO GENETIC TESTING.-If a person who is served with an order to appear for genetic testing fails to appear without good cause or refuses to submit to testing without good cause, the department may take one or more of the following actions:

(a) Commence a proceeding to suspend the <u>driver</u> driver's
license and motor vehicle registration of the person ordered to
appear, as provided in s. 61.13016;

(b) Impose an administrative fine against the personordered to appear in the amount of \$500; or

(c) File a petition in circuit court to establish paternity, obtain a support order for the child, and seek reimbursement from the person ordered to appear for the full cost of genetic testing incurred by the department.

301 As provided in s. 322.058(2), a suspended driver driver's 302 license and motor vehicle registration may be reinstated when 303 the person ordered to appear complies with the order to appear for genetic testing. The department may collect an 304 administrative fine imposed under this subsection by using civil 305 remedies or other statutory means available to the department 306 307 for collecting support. 308 Section 5. Effective July 1, 2012, paragraph (c) of

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309 subsection (5) of section 409.2563, Florida Statutes, is amended 310 to read:

311 409.2563 Administrative establishment of child support 312 obligations.-

313

(5) PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT ORDER.-

(c) The department shall provide a notice of rights with the proposed administrative support order, which notice must inform the parent from whom support is being sought that:

317 1. The parent from whom support is being sought may, 318 within 20 days after the date of mailing or other service of the 319 proposed administrative support order, request a hearing by 320 filing a written request for hearing in a form and manner 321 specified by the department;

322 2. If the parent from whom support is being sought files a 323 timely request for a hearing, the case shall be transferred to 324 the Division of Administrative Hearings, which shall conduct 325 further proceedings and may enter an administrative support 326 order;

327 3. A parent from whom support is being sought who fails to 328 file a timely request for a hearing shall be deemed to have 329 waived the right to a hearing, and the department may render an 330 administrative support order pursuant to paragraph (7)(b);

331 4. The parent from whom support is being sought may
332 consent in writing to entry of an administrative support order
333 without a hearing;

The parent from whom support is being sought may,
within <u>15</u> 10 days after the date of mailing or other service of
the proposed administrative support order, request to informally

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337 discuss the proposed administrative support order by filing a 338 written request with the department, contact a department 339 representative, at the address or telephone number specified in 340 the notice, to informally discuss the proposed administrative 341 support order and, if informal discussions are requested timely, 342 the time for requesting a hearing will be extended until 10 days 343 after the department notifies the parent that the informal 344 discussions have been concluded; and

6. If an administrative support order that establishes a parent's support obligation is rendered, whether after a hearing or without a hearing, the department may enforce the administrative support order by any lawful means.

349 Section 6. Subsections (1), (3), and (4), paragraph (b) of 350 subsection (7), and subsection (10) of section 409.25656, 351 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

352

409.25656 Garnishment.-

353 If a person has a support obligation which is subject (1)354 to enforcement by the department as the state Title IV-D 355 program, the executive director or his or her designee may give 356 notice of past due and/or overdue support by regular registered 357 mail to all persons who have in their possession or under their 358 control any credits or personal property, including wages, 359 belonging to the support obligor, or owing any debts to the 360 support obligor at the time of receipt by them of such notice. Thereafter, any person who has been notified may not transfer or 361 make any other disposition, up to the amount provided for in the 362 363 notice, of such credits, other personal property, or debts until 364 the executive director or his or her designee consents to a

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365 transfer or disposition, or until 60 days after the receipt of 366 such notice. If the obligor contests the intended levy in the 367 circuit court or under chapter 120, the notice under this 368 section shall remain in effect until final disposition of that 369 circuit court or chapter 120 action. Any financial institution 370 receiving such notice will maintain a right of setoff for any 371 transaction involving a debit card occurring on or before the 372 date of receipt of such notice.

373 (3) During the last 30 days of the 60-day period set forth 374 in subsection (1), the executive director or his or her designee 375 may levy upon such credits, personal property, or debts. The 376 levy must be accomplished by delivery of a notice of levy by regular registered mail, upon receipt of which the person 377 378 possessing the credits, other personal property, or debts shall 379 transfer them to the department or pay to the department the 380 amount owed by the obligor. If the department levies upon 381 securities and the value of the securities is less than the 382 total amount of past due or overdue support, the person who 383 possesses or controls the securities shall liquidate the 384 securities in a commercially reasonable manner. After 385 liquidation, the person shall transfer to the department the 386 proceeds, less any applicable commissions or fees, or both, 387 which are charged in the normal course of business. If the value 388 of the securities exceeds the total amount of past due or overdue support, the obligor may, within 7 days after receipt of 389 the department's notice of levy, instruct the person who 390 391 possesses or controls the securities which securities are to be 392 sold to satisfy the obligation for past due or overdue support.

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393 If the obligor does not provide instructions for liquidation, 394 the person who possesses or controls the securities shall 395 liquidate the securities in a commercially reasonable manner in 396 an amount sufficient to cover the obligation for past due or 397 overdue support and any applicable commissions or fees, or both, which are charged in the normal course of business, beginning 398 399 with the securities purchased most recently. After liquidation, 400 the person who possesses or controls the securities shall 401 transfer to the department the total amount of past due or 402 overdue support.

(4) A notice that is delivered under this section is effective at the time of delivery against all credits, other personal property, or debts of the obligor which are not at the time of such notice subject to an attachment, garnishment, or execution issued through a judicial process. <u>Upon the</u> <u>garnishee's written consent</u>, the department may send notices to the garnishee by secure e-mail or fax.

(7)

410

(b) Not less than 30 days before the day of the levy, the notice of intent to levy required under paragraph (a) must be given in person or sent by <u>regular</u> certified or registered mail to the person's last known address.

(10) <u>The Chief Financial Officer shall work cooperatively</u> with the department to establish an automated method for periodically disclosing to the department an electronic file of individuals to whom the state pays money for goods or services or who lease real property to the state. The department shall use the data provided to identify individuals who owe past due

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421	or overdue support and may garnish payments owed to such
422	individuals by the state as provided in this section The
423	department shall provide notice to the Chief Financial Officer,
424	in electronic or other form specified by the Chief Financial
425	Officer, listing the obligors for whom warrants are outstanding.
426	Pursuant to subsection (1), the Chief Financial Officer shall,
427	upon notice from the department, withhold all payments to any
428	obligor who provides commodities or services to the state,
429	leases real property to the state, or constructs a public
430	building or public work for the state. The department may levy
431	upon the withheld payments in accordance with subsection (3).
432	Section 215.422 does not apply from the date the notice is filed
433	with the Chief Financial Officer until the date the department
434	notifies the Chief Financial Officer of its consent to make
435	payment to the person or 60 days after receipt of the
436	department's notice in accordance with subsection (1), whichever
437	occurs earlier.
438	Section 7. Subsections (1) and (4) of section 409.25658,
439	Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
440	409.25658 Use of unclaimed property for past due support
441	(1) In a joint effort to facilitate the collection and

442 payment of past due support, the Department of Revenue, in 443 cooperation with the Department of Financial Services, shall 444 identify persons owing support collected <u>by the department</u> 445 through a court who are presumed to have unclaimed property held 446 by the Department of Financial Services.

447 (4) <u>Before</u> Prior to paying an obligor's approved claim,
 448 the Department of Financial Services shall notify the department

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449 that the such claim has been approved. Upon confirmation that 450 the Department of Financial Services has approved the claim, the 451 department shall immediately send a notice by regular certified 452 mail to the obligor at the address provided by the obligor to 453 the Department of Financial Services, with a copy to the 454 Department of Financial Services, advising the obligor of the 455 department's intent to intercept the approved claim up to the 456 amount of the past due support, and informing the obligor of the 457 obligor's right to request a hearing under chapter 120. The 458 Department of Financial Services shall retain custody of the 459 property until a final order has been entered and any appeals 460 thereon have been concluded, or, if the intercept is 461 uncontested, until notified by the department. If the obligor 462 fails to request a hearing, the department shall notify enter a 463 final order instructing the Department of Financial Services, 464 electronically or in writing, to transfer to the department the 465 property in the amount stated in the notice or electronic file 466 final order. Upon such transfer, the Department of Financial 467 Services shall be released from further liability related to the 468 transferred property. 469 Section 8. Section 409.2575, Florida Statutes, is amended 470 to read:

471 409.2575 <u>Administrative</u> liens on motor vehicles and
472 vessels.-

(1) The <u>department</u> director of the state IV-D program, or
the director's designee, may cause a lien for unpaid and
delinquent support to be placed upon motor vehicles, as defined
in chapter 320, and upon vessels, as defined in chapter 327,

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477 that are registered in the name of an obligor who is delinguent 478 in support payments, if the title to the property is held by a 479 lienholder, in the manner provided in chapter 319 or chapter 480 328, and upon a claim, settlement, or judgment that may result 481 in payment to the obligor. The department shall notify the 482 obligor of the intent to place a lien by regular mail sent to 483 the obligor's address of record on file with the depository. The 484 notice must state the amount of past due support owed and inform 485 the obligor of the right to contest the lien at an administrative hearing as provided by chapter 120. Notice of 486 487 lien shall not be mailed unless the delinquency in support 488 exceeds \$600.

(2) If the first lienholder fails, neglects, or refuses to forward the certificate of title to the appropriate department as requested pursuant to s. 319.24 or s. 328.15, the <u>department</u> director of the IV-D program, or the director's designee, may apply to the circuit court for an order to enforce the requirements of s. 319.24 or s. 328.15, whichever applies.

495 Section 9. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this 496 act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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