1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to child support obligations; amending 3 s. 61.13, F.S.; requiring payments in Title IV-D cases 4 to be made to the State Disbursement Unit; requiring 5 the depository to transmit certain data through, and 6 set up appropriate payment accounts on, the Clerk of 7 Court Child Support Collection System under certain 8 circumstances; amending s. 61.1354, F.S.; requiring 9 consumer reporting agencies to provide certain 10 reports, upon request, to the Department of Children 11 and Families for certain purposes; requiring the 12 Department of Children and Families to provide certifications; amending s. 61.30, F.S.; prohibiting 13 14 incarceration from being considered voluntary unemployment for purposes of imputing income to a 15 16 parent; providing exceptions; authorizing certain 17 social security benefits to count as gross income of a parent; authorizing a credit in child support payments 18 19 if a parent pays certain benefits and files a motion with the court; requiring notice and a hearing for 20 21 such credit in Title IV-D cases; amending s. 409.256, F.S.; revising a definition; amending s. 409.2563, 22 23 F.S.; revising a definition; providing that the 24 Department of Revenue is not required to file 25 certified copies of certain support orders; amending

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a 400 OFFEE E C . suthanizing the Department of
s. 409.25656, F.S.; authorizing the Department of
Revenue to deliver notices through electronic means
after receiving certain consent; amending s.
409.25658, F.S.; revising the process by which the
Department of Revenue may receive information and
submit unclaimed property claims for the purpose of
collecting past due child support; requiring certain
notice to be provided by regular, rather than
certified, mail; requiring the Department of Financial
Services to transfer an obligor's property in the
amount of the past due child support to the Department
of Revenue under certain circumstances; amending s.
409.2567, F.S.; authorizing the Department of Revenue
to e-mail confidential information after receiving
certain consent; prohibiting certain information from
being e-mailed; amending s. 409.2576, F.S.; providing
a definition; requiring specified reports for certain
individuals to be sent to the State Directory of New
Hires; specifying when a report must be submitted;
authorizing wage or other income withholding of
certain individuals; making conforming revisions;
providing an effective date.

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

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

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

(1)

- (d)1. All child support orders $\underline{\text{must}}$ shall provide the full name and date of birth of each minor child who is the subject of the child support order.
- 2. If both parties request and the court finds that it is in the best interest of the child, support payments need not be subject to immediate income deduction. Support orders that are not subject to immediate income deduction may be directed through the depository under s. 61.181 or made payable directly to the obligee. Payments made by immediate income deduction <u>must shall</u> be made to the State Disbursement Unit. The court shall provide a copy of the order to the depository.
- 3. For support orders payable directly to the obligee, any party, or the department in a IV-D case, may subsequently file an affidavit with the depository alleging a default in payment of child support and stating that the party wishes to require that payments be made through the depository. The party shall provide copies of the affidavit to the court and to each other party. Fifteen days after receipt of the affidavit, the depository shall notify all parties that future payments must shall be paid through the depository, except that payments in

Title IV-D cases and income deduction payments <u>must shall</u> be made to the State Disbursement Unit. <u>Upon notice by the department that it is providing Title IV-D services in a case with an existing support order, the depository shall transmit case data through, and set up appropriate payment accounts, regardless of whether there is a delinquency, on the Clerk of the Court Child Support Collection System as required under s. 61.181(2)(b).</u>

Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 61.1354, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 61.1354 Sharing of information between consumer reporting agencies and the IV-D agency.—
- establishing an individual's capacity to make support payments or for determining the appropriate amount of child support payment to be made by the individual, Consumer reporting agencies shall provide, upon request, consumer reports to the department as authorized under head of the IV-D agency pursuant to s. 604 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, provided that the department head of the IV-D agency, or its designee, certifies all of the following that:
- (a) The consumer report is needed for the purpose of determining an individual's income and establishing an individual's capacity to make support payments, or determining the appropriate level of such payments, or enforcing a child

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support order, award, agreement, or judgment.
support payment to be made by the individual;

- (b) The parentage Paternity of the child of the individual whose report is sought, if that individual is the father of the child, has been established or acknowledged in accordance with state laws under which the obligation arises. pursuant to the laws of Florida;
- (c) The individual whose report is sought was provided with at least 15 days' prior notice, by regular certified or registered mail to the individual's last known address, that the report was requested.; and
- (d) The consumer report will be <u>kept confidential and</u> used solely for the purpose described in paragraph (a) <u>and will not be used in connection with any other civil, administrative, or criminal proceeding or for any other purpose.</u>
- Section 3. Subsections (2) and (10) of section 61.30, Florida Statutes, are amended, to read:
- 61.30 Child support guidelines; retroactive child support.—
- (2) Income shall be determined on a monthly basis for each parent as follows:
- (a) Gross income shall include, but is not limited to, $\underline{\text{all}}$ $\underline{\text{of}}$ the following:
 - 1. Salary or wages.

2. Bonuses, commissions, allowances, overtime, tips, and

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126 other similar payments.

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- 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.
 - 6. Reemployment assistance or 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) Monthly income shall be imputed to an unemployed or underemployed parent if such unemployment 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

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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 if such information is available. If the information concerning a parent's income is unavailable, a parent fails to participate in a child support proceeding, or a parent fails to supply adequate financial information in a child support proceeding, income shall be automatically imputed to the parent and there is a rebuttable presumption that the parent has income equivalent to the median income of year-round full-time workers as derived from current population reports or replacement reports published by the United States Bureau of the Census. For purposes of this paragraph, the incarceration of a parent may not be treated as voluntary unemployment for the purpose of imputing income to such parent in order to establish or modify a support order, unless the parent is incarcerated for willful nonpayment of child support or for an offense against the child or the person who is owed child support. However, the court may refuse to impute income to a parent if the court finds it necessary for that parent to stay home with the child who is the subject of a child support calculation or as set forth below:

other than the median income of year-round full-time workers as

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In order for the court to impute income at an amount

derived from current population reports or replacement reports published by the United States Bureau of the Census, 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 that:

- a. The unemployment or underemployment is voluntary; and
- b. Identifies the amount and source of the imputed income, through evidence of income from available employment for which the party is suitably qualified by education, experience, current licensure, or geographic location, with due consideration being given to the parties' time-sharing schedule and their historical exercise of the time-sharing provided in the parenting plan or relevant order.
- 2. Except as set forth in subparagraph 1., income may not be imputed 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; or
- b. Income at a level that a party has never earned in the past, unless recently degreed, licensed, certified, relicensed, or recertified and thus qualified for, subject to geographic location, with due consideration of the parties' existing timesharing schedule and their historical exercise of the timesharing provided in the parenting plan or relevant order.
 - (c) Social security benefits received by a child or a

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child's caregiver, as defined in s. 39.01(10), due to the retirement or disability of the child's parent may be included in the parent's gross income.

- (10) (a) Each parent's actual dollar share of the total minimum child support need is shall be determined by multiplying the minimum child support need by each parent's percentage share of the combined monthly net income.
- (b)1. A parent is entitled to credit for social security benefits that are paid directly to the child or the child's caregiver, as defined in s. 39.01(10), when the benefits are paid because of the parent's retirement or disability. If the social security benefits paid are equal to or greater than the parent's monthly support obligation, the parent's monthly support obligation is considered paid in full for each month such benefits are paid. Any social security benefits paid in excess of the monthly support obligation inure to the benefit of the child and may not be used to pay past due or retroactive support that accrued before the social security benefits commenced. If the social security benefits paid are less than the parent's monthly support obligation, the parent must pay the amount of the difference to the child or the child's caregiver.
- 2. If a parent is entitled to credit under subparagraph

 1., he or she may file a motion with the court or include the

 request in a petition to modify the monthly support order. In a

 Title IV-D case, the department may apply the credit after

226	proper notice is provided and a hearing is held under chapter
227	120. If the department determines in the hearing to apply the
228	credit, the department must notify the clerk of court so the
229	clerk can update the payment record.
230	Section 4. Paragraph (i) of subsection (1) of section
231	409.256, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
232	409.256 Administrative proceeding to establish paternity
233	or paternity and child support; order to appear for genetic
234	testing
235	(1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:
236	(i) "Rendered" means that a signed written order is <u>issued</u>
237	by filed with the clerk or a deputy clerk of the department of
238	Revenue and served on the respondent. The date of filing must be
239	indicated on the face of the order at the time of rendition.
240	Section 5. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) and subsection
241	(8) of section 409.2563, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
242	409.2563 Administrative establishment of child support
243	obligations
244	(1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:
245	(e) "Rendered" means that a signed written order is $\underline{\text{issued}}$
246	by filed with the clerk or any deputy clerk of the department
247	and served on the respondent. The date of filing must be
248	indicated on the face of the order at the time of rendition.
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Other terms used in this section have the meanings ascribed in

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

251 ss. 61.046 and 409.2554.

- (8) FILING WITH THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT; OFFICIAL PAYMENT RECORD; JUDGMENT BY OPERATION OF LAW.—The department shall file with the clerk of the circuit court a certified copy of an administrative support order rendered under this section. The depository operated under pursuant to s. 61.181 for the county where the administrative support order has been filed shall:
- (a) Act as the official recordkeeper for payments required under the administrative support order. \div
- (b) Establish and maintain the necessary payment accounts. \div
- (c) Upon a delinquency, initiate the judgment by operation of law procedure as provided by s. 61.14(6).; and
- (d) Perform all other duties required of a depository with respect to a support order entered by a court of this state.

When a proceeding to establish an administrative support order is commenced under subsection (4), the department shall file a copy of the initial notice with the depository. The depository shall assign an account number and provide the account number to the department within 4 business days after the initial notice is filed.

Section 6. Subsection (4) of section 409.25656, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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276 409.25656 Garnishment.-

(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. If a person requiring notice under this section provides his or her written consent, the department may deliver notice through secure electronic means.

Section 7. Section 409.25658, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 409.25658 Use of unclaimed property for past due support.-
- (1) In a joint effort to facilitate the collection and payment of past due support, the department of Revenue, in cooperation with the Department of Financial Services, shall identify persons owing support collected by the department through a court who are presumed to have unclaimed property held by the Department of Financial Services.
- (2) The Department of Financial Services department shall periodically provide the department of Financial Services with an electronic file of unclaimed property accounts. The department shall use the data to identify support obligors with unclaimed property accounts and provide the Department of Financial Services with an electronic file that includes the names and other personal identifying information of the support

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obligors support obligors who owe past due support. The Department of Financial Services shall conduct a data match of the file against all apparent owners of unclaimed property under chapter 717 and provide the resulting match list to the department.

- D agency under s. 409.2557(1), to submit claims for unclaimed property to the Department of Financial Services, in accordance with the standards established by the Department of Financial Services, for the purpose of collecting past due support Upon receipt of the data match list, the department shall provide to the Department of Financial Services the obligor's last known address. The Department of Financial Services shall follow the notification procedures under s. 717.118.
- (4) <u>Before Prior to</u> paying an obligor's approved claim, the Department of Financial Services <u>must</u> <u>shall</u> notify the department that such claim has been approved. Upon confirmation that the Department of Financial Services has approved the claim <u>submitted by the department</u>, the department shall <u>immediately</u> send a notice by <u>regular certified</u> mail to the obligor, <u>with a copy to the Department of Financial Services</u>, advising the obligor of the department's intent to intercept the <u>property approved claim</u> up to the amount of the past due support, and informing the obligor of the obligor's right to request a hearing under chapter 120. <u>If a hearing is requested</u>, the

Department of Financial Services shall retain custody of the property until a final order has been entered and any appeals thereon have been concluded. If the obligor fails to request a hearing, the department shall <u>inform enter a final order instructing</u> the Department of Financial Services to transfer to the department the property <u>up to in</u> the amount <u>of the past due support</u> stated in the final order. Upon such transfer, the Department of Financial Services <u>is shall be</u> released from further liability related to the transferred property.

- (5) The provisions of This section provides provide a supplemental remedy, and the department may use this remedy in conjunction with any other method of collecting support.
- Section 8. Subsection (1) of section 409.2567, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 409.2567 Services to individuals not otherwise eligible.-
- (1) (a) All support services provided by the department must shall be made available on behalf of all dependent children. Services must shall be provided upon acceptance of public assistance or upon proper application filed with the department. The federally required application fee for individuals who do not receive public assistance is \$1, which is shall be waived for all applicants and paid by the department. The annual fee required under 42 U.S.C. s. 654(6)(B), as amended by Pub. L. No. 115-123, for cases involving an individual who has never received temporary cash assistance and for whom the

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department has collected the federally required minimum amount of support must shall be paid by the department.

- (b) The department may include confidential and exempt information in communications via e-mail with a parent, caregiver, or other person authorized to receive such information upon receiving written consent from the parent, caregiver, or other person. However, social security numbers, federal tax information, driver license numbers, and bank account numbers may not be included in communications via e-mail even if such consent is received.
- Section 9. Section 409.2576, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 409.2576 State Directory of New Hires.-
- hereby created and shall be administered by the Department of Revenue or its agent. All employers and service recipients in the state must shall furnish a report consistent with subsection (3) for each newly hired or rehired employee or each individual who performs a service for a service recipient unless the employee or individual is employed by a federal or state agency performing intelligence or counterintelligence functions and the head of such agency has determined that reporting under pursuant to this section could endanger the safety of the employee or individual or compromise an ongoing investigation or intelligence mission.

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(2) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the term:
(a) (d) "Date of hire" is the first day of work for which an the employee or individual is owed income.

- (b) (a) "Employee" has the same meaning given such term in s. 3401(d) is defined as an individual who is an employee within the meaning of chapter 24 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
- (c) (b) "Employer" has the meaning given such term in s. 3401(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and includes any government entity and labor organization.
- $\underline{\text{(d)}}$ "Labor organization" has the meaning given such term in s. 2(5) of the National Labor Relations Act and includes any entity which is used by the organization and an employer to carry out requirements described in s. 8(f)(3) of such act of an agreement between the organization and employer.
- (e) "Service recipient" means a person engaged in a trade or business and for whom a service is performed by an individual in a capacity other than that of an employee.
 - (3) EMPLOYERS AND SERVICE RECIPIENTS TO FURNISH REPORTS.-
- (a) Each employer subject to the reporting requirements of chapter 443 with 250 or more employees, shall provide to the State Directory of New Hires, a report listing the employer's legal name, address, and reemployment assistance identification number. The report must also provide the name and social security number of each new employee or rehired employee at the end of the first pay period following employment or

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reemployment.

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(a) (b) All employers must shall furnish a report to the State Directory of New Hires of the state in which a the newly hired or rehired employee works. The report required in this section must shall be made on a W-4 form or, at the option of the employer, an equivalent form, and can be transmitted magnetically, electronically, by first-class mail, or other methods which may be prescribed by the State Directory. Each report must shall include the name, address, date of hire, and social security number of every new and rehired employee and the name, address, and federal employer identification number of the reporting employer. If available, the employer may also include the employee's date of birth in the report. Multistate employers that report new hire information electronically or magnetically may designate a single state to which it will transmit the above noted report, provided the employer has employees in that state and the employer notifies the Secretary of Health and Human Services in writing to which state the information will be provided. Agencies of the United States Government shall report directly to the National Directory of New Hires.

(b) All service recipients must furnish a report to the State Directory of New Hires of the state in which an individual performs a service for a service recipient as defined in paragraph (2)(e) if the service recipient pays the individual more than \$600 during any 1 calendar year. The report must

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include the name, address, and social security number, or other identifying number assigned to an individual under 26 U.S.C. s. 6109, of the individual, the date on which a service for payment was first performed, and the name, address, and employer identification number of the service recipient.

- (c) Pursuant to the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, each party is required to provide his or her social security number in accordance with this section. Disclosure of social security numbers obtained through this requirement is shall be limited to the purpose of administration of the Title IV-D program for child support enforcement and those programs listed in subsection (9).
 - (4) TIME FOR REPORTS.—

- (a) Employers must report new hire information, as described in subsection (3), within 20 days <u>after</u> of the hire date of the employee, or, in the case of employers that report new hire information electronically or by magnetic tape, by two monthly transmissions, if necessary, <u>at least</u> not less than 12 days <u>but not</u> nor more than 16 days apart.
- (b) Service recipients must report information, as described in subsection (3), regarding individuals who perform services for a service recipient within 20 days after first making payments that require an information return in accordance with 26 U.S.C. s. 6041A(a) or entering into a contract that

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provides for such payments, whichever occurs first. In the case of service recipients that submit reports electronically or by magnetic tape, by two monthly transmissions, if necessary, at least 12 days but not more than 16 days apart.

- (5) ENTRY OF DATA.—The State Directory of New Hires <u>must</u> shall enter new hire information into an automated database within 5 business days after of receipt of the information.
- (6) MATCHES TO STATE REGISTRY. Not later than May 1, 1998, The Department of Revenue or its agent must conduct automated matches of the social security numbers of employees and individuals reported to the State Directory of New Hires against the social security numbers of records in the State Case Registry. The Title IV-D agency shall use the new hire information received to locate individuals for the purposes of establishing paternity and establishing, modifying, and enforcing support obligations. Private entities under contract with the Title IV-D agency to provide Title IV-D services may have access to information obtained from the State Directory of New Hires and must comply with privacy safeguards.
- (7) WAGE WITHHOLDING NOTICE AND NATIONAL MEDICAL SUPPORT NOTICE.—The department shall transmit a wage withholding notice consistent with s. 61.1301 and, when appropriate, a national medical support notice, as defined in s. 61.046, to the employee's employer or the individual's service recipient within 2 business days after entry of the new hire information into the

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State Directory of New Hires' database, unless the court has determined that the employee's <u>or the individual's</u> wages <u>or other income is are</u> not subject to withholding or, for purposes of the national medical support notice, the support order does not contain a provision for the employee <u>or individual</u> to provide health insurance. The withholding notice <u>must shall</u> direct the employer <u>or service recipient</u> to withhold income in accordance with the income deduction order, and the national medical support notice shall direct the employer <u>or service recipient</u> to withhold premiums for health insurance.

Directory of New Hires must furnish information regarding newly hired or rehired employees and other individuals subject to reporting to the National Directory of New Hires for matching with the records of other state case registries within 3 business days after of entering such information from the employer or service recipient into the State Directory of New Hires. The State Directory of New Hires must shall enter into an agreement with the Department of Economic Opportunity or its tax collection service provider for the quarterly reporting to the National Directory of New Hires information on wages or other income and reemployment assistance taken from the quarterly report to the Secretary of Labor, now required by Title III of the Social Security Act. However, except that no a report may not shall be filed with respect to an employee or other

<u>individual</u> of a state or local agency performing intelligence or counterintelligence functions, if the head of such agency has determined that filing such a report could endanger the safety of the employee <u>or other individual</u> or compromise an ongoing investigation or intelligence mission.

(9) DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION. -

- (a) New hire Information reported under this section must shall be disclosed to the state agency administering the following programs for the purposes of determining eligibility under those programs:
- 1. Any state program funded under part A of Title IV of the Social Security Act. \div
- 2. The Medicaid program under Title XIX of the Social Security Act. \div
- 3. The reemployment assistance or unemployment compensation program under s. 3304 of the Internal Revenue Code of $1954.\div$
- 4. The food assistance program under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.; and
- 5. Any state program under a plan approved under Title I (Old-Age Assistance for the Aged), Title X (Aid to the Blind), Title XIV (Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled), or Title XVI (Aid to the Aged, Blind, or Disabled; Supplemental Security Income for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled) of the Social Security Act.

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(b)	New hire	Informa	ation <u>r</u>	reported	under	this	section	must		
shall be	e disclosed	to the	state	agencies	s opera	ating	employme	∍nt		
security	y and worker	rs' com	pensati	on progr	cams fo	or the	purpose	es of		
administering such programs.										

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Section 10. This act shall take effect October 1, 2021.