2023 Legislature

1	
2	An act relating to child support; amending s. 61.046,
3	F.S.; revising the definition of the term
4	"depository"; amending s. 61.13016, F.S.; authorizing
5	deferral of support payments for an obligor's good
6	faith job training efforts; amending s. 61.181, F.S.;
7	requiring a depository to impose and collect a fee on
8	certain cases; providing a minimum and maximum amount
9	for the fee; removing language relating to the State
10	Disbursement Unit collecting fees; specifying how such
11	fee must be distributed; requiring certain moneys to
12	be remitted to the Department of Children and Families
13	at specified intervals; removing requirements for a
14	depository to provide certain information to the Title
15	IV-D agency; conforming provisions to changes made by
16	the act; removing obsolete language; making technical
17	changes; amending s. 61.30, F.S.; removing exceptions
18	relating to incarceration when establishing or
19	modifying a support order; amending s. 409.256, F.S.;
20	authorizing a child's caregiver to provide an
21	affidavit or a written declaration regarding a
22	putative father; amending s. 409.2563, F.S.; requiring
23	the department to file a certain payment record with
24	the clerk of the circuit court; requiring the clerk of
25	the circuit court to update certain information and

Page 1 of 19

2023 Legislature

26	apply credits under certain circumstances; authorizing
27	a party to dispute the application of a credit in a
28	subsequent proceeding; amending ss. 61.13, 61.1811,
29	and 61.1814, F.S.; conforming cross-references;
30	providing effective dates.
31	
32	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
33	
34	Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 61.046, Florida
35	Statutes, is amended to read:
36	61.046 DefinitionsAs used in this chapter, the term:
37	(4) "Depository" means <u>a</u> the central governmental
38	depository established by the clerk of the circuit court in each
39	county pursuant to s. 61.181, created by special act of the
40	Legislature or other entity established before June 1, 1985, to
41	perform depository functions and to receive, record, report,
42	disburse, monitor, and otherwise handle alimony and child
43	support payments not otherwise required to be processed by the
44	State Disbursement Unit.
45	Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
46	61.13016, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
47	61.13016 Suspension of driver licenses and motor vehicle
48	registrations
49	(1) The driver license and motor vehicle registration of a
50	support obligor who is delinquent in payment or who has failed
	Page 2 of 19

2023 Legislature

51 to comply with subpoenas or a similar order to appear or show 52 cause relating to paternity or support proceedings may be 53 suspended. When an obligor is 15 days delinquent making a 54 payment in support or failure to comply with a subpoena, order 55 to appear, order to show cause, or similar order in IV-D cases, 56 the Title IV-D agency may provide notice to the obligor of the 57 delinquency or failure to comply with a subpoena, order to appear, order to show cause, or similar order and the intent to 58 59 suspend by regular United States mail that is posted to the 60 obligor's last address of record with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. When an obligor is 15 days delinquent 61 in making a payment in support in non-IV-D cases, and upon the 62 request of the obligee, the depository or the clerk of the court 63 64 must provide notice to the obligor of the delinquency and the 65 intent to suspend by regular United States mail that is posted 66 to the obligor's last address of record with the Department of 67 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. In either case, the notice 68 must state:

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

73 1.a. Pays the delinquency in full and any other costs and 74 fees accrued between the date of the notice and the date the 75 delinquency is paid;

Page 3 of 19

2023 Legislature

76	b. Enters into a written agreement for payment with the
77	obligee in non-IV-D cases or with the Title IV-D agency in IV-D
78	cases; or in IV-D cases, complies with a subpoena or order to
79	appear, order to show cause, or a similar order, which may
80	include a reasonable period of payment deferral to accommodate
81	an obligor's good faith job-seeking <u>or job training</u> efforts;
82	c. Files a petition with the circuit court to contest the
83	delinquency action;
84	d. Demonstrates that he or she receives reemployment
85	assistance or unemployment compensation pursuant to chapter 443;
86	e. Demonstrates that he or she is disabled and incapable
87	of self-support or that he or she receives benefits under the
88	federal Supplemental Security Income program or Social Security
89	Disability Insurance program;
90	f. Demonstrates that he or she receives temporary cash
91	assistance pursuant to chapter 414; or
92	g. Demonstrates that he or she is making payments in
93	accordance with a confirmed bankruptcy plan under chapter 11,
94	chapter 12, or chapter 13 of the United States Bankruptcy Code,
95	11 U.S.C. ss. 101 et seq.; and
96	2. Pays any applicable delinquency fees.
97	
98	If an obligor in a non-IV-D case enters into a written agreement
99	for payment before the expiration of the 20-day period, the
100	obligor must provide a copy of the signed written agreement to
	Page 4 of 19

2023 Legislature

101 the depository or the clerk of the court. If an obligor seeks to 102 satisfy sub-subparagraph 1.d., sub-subparagraph 1.e., sub-103 subparagraph 1.f., or sub-subparagraph 1.g. before expiration of 104 the 20-day period, the obligor must provide the applicable 105 documentation or proof to the depository or the clerk of the 106 court. 107 Section 3. Subsections (5) through (8) and (10) of section

108 61.181, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (4)
109 through (7) and (9), respectively, and present subsections (1),
110 (2), (3), (4), (8), and (9) of that section are amended to read:

111 61.181 <u>Depositories</u> Depository for alimony transactions, 112 support, maintenance, and support payments; fees.-

The office of the clerk of the court in each county 113 (1)(a) 114 shall operate a depository unless the depository is otherwise 115 created by special act of the Legislature or unless, prior to 116 June 1, 1985, a different entity was established to perform such 117 functions. The department shall, no later than July 1, 1998, 118 extend participation in the federal child support cost reimbursement program to the central depository in each county, 119 120 to the maximum extent allowable possible under existing federal 121 law. Each The depository shall receive reimbursement for 122 services provided under a cooperative agreement with the 123 department pursuant to s. 61.1826. Each depository shall 124 participate in the State Disbursement Unit and shall implement 125 all statutory and contractual duties imposed on the State

Page 5 of 19

2023 Legislature

126 Disbursement Unit. Each depository shall receive from and 127 transmit to the State Disbursement Unit required data through 128 the Clerk of Court Child Support Enforcement Collection System. Payments on non-Title IV-D cases without income deduction orders 129 130 shall not be sent to the State Disbursement Unit. 131 (b) Upon request by the department, each the depository 132 operated under created pursuant to paragraph (a) shall establish 133 an account for the receipt and disbursement of support payments 134 for Title IV-D interstate cases. The department shall provide a 135 copy of the other state's order with the request, and each the 136 depository shall advise the department of the account number in 137 writing within 4 business days after receipt of the request. 138 Each depository shall impose and collect a fee for (2)(a) 139 payments not required to be processed through the State 140 Disbursement Unit, the depository shall impose and collect a fee 141 on each payment made for receiving, recording, reporting, 142 disbursing, monitoring, or handling alimony or child support 143 payments as required under this section. for non-Title IV-D 144 cases required to be processed by the State Disbursement Unit 145 pursuant to this chapter, the State Disbursement Unit shall, on 146 each payment received, collect a fee, and shall transmit to the 147 depository in which the case is located 40 percent of such 148 service charge for the depository's administration, management, 149 and maintenance of such case. If a payment is made to the State Disbursement Unit which is not accompanied by the required fee, 150

Page 6 of 19

2023 Legislature

151	the State Disbursement Unit shall not deduct any moneys from the
152	support payment for payment of the fee. The fee shall be a flat
153	fee based, to the extent practicable, upon estimated reasonable
154	costs of operation. The fee is 4 shall be reduced in any case in
155	which the fixed fee results in a charge to any party of an
156	amount greater than 3 percent of the amount of any support
157	payment made in satisfaction of the amount which the party is
158	obligated to pay , except that <u>a</u> no fee <u>may not</u> shall be less
159	than \$1 <u>or</u> more than <u>\$5.25</u> \$5 per payment made. The fee <u>must</u>
160	shall be considered by the court in determining the amount of
161	support that the obligor is, or may be, required to pay. <u>A fee</u>
162	may not be imposed on payments for Title IV-D cases.
163	(b) 1. The fee imposed in paragraph (a) shall be increased
164	to 4 percent of the support payments which the party is
165	obligated to pay, except that no fee shall be more than \$5.25.
166	The fee shall be considered by the court in determining the
167	amount of support that the obligor is, or may be, required to
168	pay. Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 145.022, <u>the fee</u>
169	imposed under paragraph (a) shall be distributed as follows:
170	1. To 75 percent of the additional revenues generated by
171	this paragraph shall be remitted monthly to the Clerk of the
172	Court Child Support Enforcement Collection System Trust Fund <u>,</u>
173	calculated as follows:
174	a. For each support payment of less than \$33, 18.75 cents.
175	b. For each support payment of at least \$33 but not more
	Page 7 of 19

2023 Legislature

176 than \$140, an amount equal to 75 percent of the difference 177 between 4 percent of the support payment amount, not to exceed 178 \$5.25, and 3 percent of the support payment amount, not to 179 exceed \$5. 180 c. For each support payment in excess of \$140, 18.75 cents administered by the department as provided in subparagraph 2. 181 182 183 These funds shall be used exclusively for the development, 184 implementation, and operation of the Clerk of the Court Child 185 Support Enforcement Collection System to be operated by the 186 depositories, including the automation of civil case information necessary for the State Case Registry. The department shall 187 contract with the Florida Association of Court Clerks and the 188 189 depositories to design, establish, operate, upgrade, and 190 maintain the automation of the depositories to include, but not 191 be limited to, the provision of online electronic transfer of 192 information to the IV-D agency as otherwise required by this 193 chapter. The department's obligation to fund the automation of 194 the depositories is limited to the state share of funds 195 available in the Clerk of the Court Child Support Enforcement 196 Collection System Trust Fund. Each depository created under this 197 section must shall fully participate in the Clerk of the Court 198 Child Support Enforcement Collection System and transmit data in 199 a readable format as required by the contract between the Florida Association of Court Clerks and the department. 200

Page 8 of 19

2023 Legislature

201	2. For support payments not processed through the State
202	Disbursement Unit, the clerk of the court shall retain the
203	balance of the fee imposed under paragraph (a) for receiving,
204	recording, reporting, disbursing, monitoring, or handling
205	support payments as required under this section Moneys to be
206	remitted to the department by the depository shall be done daily
207	by electronic funds transfer and calculated as follows:
208	a. For each support payment of less than \$33, 18.75 cents.
209	b. For each support payment between \$33 and \$140, an
210	amount equal to 18.75 percent of the fee charged.
211	c. For each support payment in excess of \$140, 18.75
212	cents.
213	3. For support payments processed through the State
214	Disbursement Unit, the clerk of the court shall retain 40
215	percent of the fee imposed under paragraph (a) for the
216	depository's administration, management, and maintenance of each
217	case. After retaining 40 percent of the fee imposed under
218	paragraph (a) and paying the amount due to the Clerk of the
219	Court Child Support Enforcement Collection System Trust Fund,
220	the clerk of the court shall transmit the balance of the fee to
221	the department, which shall be treated as program income under
222	<u>s. 61.1814(2).</u>
223	(c) Each depository must remit moneys due to the
224	department under subparagraphs (b)1. and 3. at least monthly as
225	required under s. 28.245.

Page 9 of 19

2023 Legislature

(d) The fees established by this section shall be set forth and included in every order of support entered by a court of this state which requires payment to be made into <u>a</u> the depository.

230 (3) (a) For payments not required to be processed through the State Disbursement Unit, a the depository shall collect and 231 232 distribute all support payments paid into the depository to the 233 appropriate party. On or after July 1, 1998, If a payment is 234 made on a Title IV-D case which is not accompanied by the 235 required transaction fee, a the depository may shall not deduct 236 any moneys from the support payment for payment of the fee. 237 Nonpayment of the required fee is shall be considered a 238 delinquency, and when the total of fees and costs which are due 239 but not paid exceeds \$50, the judgment by operation of law 240 process set forth in s. 61.14(6)(a) shall become applicable and 241 operational. As part of its collection and distribution 242 functions, each the depository shall maintain records listing: 243 1. The obligor's name, address, social security number,

244 place of employment, and any other sources of income.

245 2. The obligee's name, address, and social security246 number.

3. The amount of support due as provided in the court
order.
4. The schedule of payment as provided in the court order.

250

5.

Page 10 of 19

The actual amount of each support payment received, the

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ENROLLED

2023 Legislature

251	date of receipt, the amount disbursed, and the recipient of the
252	disbursement.
253	6. The unpaid balance of any arrearage due as provided in
254	the court order.
255	7. Other records as necessary to comply with federal
256	reporting requirements.
257	(b) <u>A</u> The depository may require a payor or obligor to
258	complete an information form, which shall request the following
259	about the payor or obligor who provides payment by check:
260	1. Full name, address, and home phone number.
261	2. Driver license number.
262	3. Social security number.
263	4. Name, address, and business phone number of obligor's
264	employer.
265	5. Date of birth.
266	6. Weight and height.
267	7. Such other information as may be required by the State
268	Attorney if prosecution for an insufficient check becomes
269	necessary.
270	
271	If \underline{a} the depository requests such information, and a payor or
272	obligor does not comply, the depository may refuse to accept
273	personal checks from the payor or obligor.
274	(c) Parties using <u>a</u> the depository for support payments
275	must notify shall inform the depository of:

Page 11 of 19

2023 Legislature

276 Changes in their names or addresses. An obligor shall, 1. 277 additionally, notify the depository of all 278 2. Changes in employment or sources of income, including 279 the payor's name and address., and 280 3. Changes in the amounts of income received. 281 282 Notification of all changes must shall be made in writing to the 283 depository within 7 days after such of a change. 284 (d) When time-sharing of a child is relinquished by a 285 parent who is entitled to receive child support moneys from a the depository to the custody of a licensed or registered long-286 287 term care child agency, that agency may request from the court 288 an order directing child support payments that would otherwise 289 be distributed to the parent be distributed to the agency for 290 the period of time that the child is with the agency. 291 Thereafter, payments shall be distributed to the agency as if 292 the agency were the parent until further order of the court. 293 (4) The depository shall provide to the IV-D agency, at 294 least once a month, a listing of IV-D accounts which identifies 295 all delinquent accounts, the period of delinquency, and total 296 amount of delinquency. The list shall be in alphabetical order 297 by name of obligor, shall include the obligee's name and case 298 number, and shall be provided at no cost to the IV-D agency. (7) (8) Each On or before July 1, 1994, the depository 299 300 shall provide information required by this chapter to be

Page 12 of 19

2023 Legislature

301	transmitted to the Title IV-D agency by online electronic
302	transmission pursuant to rules promulgated by the Title IV-D
303	agency.
304	(9) If the increase in fees as provided by paragraph
305	(2)(b) expires or is otherwise terminated, the depository shall
306	not be required to provide the Title IV-D agency the date
307	provided by a payor as required by s. 61.1301.
308	Section 4. Effective upon this act becoming a law,
309	paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section 61.30, Florida
310	Statutes, is amended to read:
311	61.30 Child support guidelines; retroactive child
312	support
313	(2) Income shall be determined on a monthly basis for each
314	parent as follows:
315	(c) Except for incarceration for willful nonpayment of
316	child support or for an offense against a child or person who is
317	owed child support, Incarceration may not be treated as
318	voluntary unemployment in establishing or modifying a support
319	order. However, the court may deviate from the child support
320	guideline amount as provided in paragraph (1)(a).
321	Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
322	409.256, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
323	409.256 Administrative proceeding to establish paternity
324	or paternity and child support; order to appear for genetic
325	testing

Page 13 of 19

2023 Legislature

326 (2) JURISDICTION; LOCATION OF HEARINGS; RIGHT OF ACCESS TO 327 THE COURTS.-328 The department may commence a paternity proceeding or (a) 329 a paternity and child support proceeding as provided in 330 subsection (4) if: 331 The child's paternity has not been established. 1. 332 2. No one is named as the father on the child's birth certificate or the person named as the father is the putative 333 334 father named in an affidavit or a written declaration as 335 provided in subparagraph 5. 336 3. The child's mother was unmarried when the child was 337 conceived and born. 338 4. The department is providing services under Title IV-D 339 of the Social Security Act. 340 The child's mother or caregiver or a putative father 5. 341 has stated in an affidavit, or in a written declaration as 342 provided in s. 92.525(2), that the putative father is or may be 343 the child's biological father. The affidavit or written 344 declaration must set forth the factual basis for the allegation 345 of paternity as provided in s. 742.12(2). 346 Section 6. Subsection (8) of section 409.2563, Florida 347 Statutes, is amended to read: 348 409.2563 Administrative establishment of child support 349 obligations.-350 (8) (a) FILING WITH THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT; Page 14 of 19

2023 Legislature

351	OFFICIAL PAYMENT RECORD; JUDGMENT BY OPERATION OF LAWThe
352	department shall file with the clerk of the circuit court a copy
353	of an administrative support order rendered under this section.
354	The depository operated pursuant to s. 61.181 for the county
355	where the administrative support order has been filed <u>must do</u>
356	all of the following shall:
357	1.(a) Act as the official recordkeeper for payments
358	required under the administrative support order \cdot -
359	2.(b) Establish and maintain the necessary payment
360	accounts <u>.</u> +
361	3.(c) Upon a delinquency, initiate the judgment by
362	operation of law procedure as provided by s. 61.14(6) <u>.; and</u>
363	<u>4.(d)</u> Perform all other duties required of a depository
364	with respect to a support order entered by a court of this
365	state.
366	(b) When a proceeding to establish an administrative
367	support order is commenced under subsection (4), the department
368	shall file a copy of the initial notice with the depository <u>for</u>
369	the county where the proceeding is filed. The depository shall
370	assign an account number and provide the account number to the
371	department within 4 business days after the initial notice is
372	filed.
373	(c) If the department receives a payment record from a
374	Title IV-D agency or a court outside this state, as defined in
375	s. 88.1011, and the payment record shows that the obligor made a

Page 15 of 19

2023 Legislature

376	payment in that state pursuant to an administrative support
377	order rendered by the department, the department must file the
378	payment record with the appropriate clerk of the circuit court.
379	The clerk of the circuit court shall review the payment record,
380	update the clerk's payment accounts, and apply a credit for
381	payments made to the other state for which the clerk has not
382	previously provided credit. If the payment record from the other
383	state indicates that the obligor has made payments that are not
384	reflected in the clerk's payment accounts, the clerk must credit
385	the account in the amount of the payment made to the other
386	state. Any party to the administrative proceeding may dispute
387	the application of credit in a subsequent proceeding concerning
388	payment under the administrative support order.
389	Section 7. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section
390	61.13, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
391	61.13 Support of children; parenting and time-sharing;
392	powers of court
393	(1)
394	(d)1. All child support orders shall provide the full name
395	and date of birth of each minor child who is the subject of the
396	child support order.
397	2. If both parties request and the court finds that it is
398	in the best interest of the child, support payments need not be
399	subject to immediate income deduction. Support orders that are
400	not subject to immediate income deduction may be directed
	Page 16 of 19

2023 Legislature

401 through the depository under s. 61.181 or made payable directly 402 to the obligee. Payments made by immediate income deduction 403 shall be made to the State Disbursement Unit. The court shall 404 provide a copy of the order to the depository.

405 For support orders payable directly to the obligee, any 3. 406 party may subsequently file an affidavit with the depository 407 alleging a default in payment of child support and stating that 408 the party wishes to require that payments be made through the 409 depository. The party shall provide copies of the affidavit to 410 the court and to each other party. Fifteen days after receipt of the affidavit, the depository shall notify all parties that 411 412 future payments shall be paid through the depository, except 413 that payments in Title IV-D cases and income deduction payments 414 shall be made to the State Disbursement Unit. In Title IV-D 415 cases, an affidavit of default or a default in payments is not 416 required to receive depository services. Upon notice by the 417 department that it is providing Title IV-D services in a case 418 with an existing support order, the depository shall transmit 419 case data through, and set up appropriate payment accounts in, 420 regardless of whether there is a delinquency, the Clerk of the 421 Court Child Support Enforcement Collection System as required under s. 61.181(2)(b)1. s. 61.181(2)(b). 422

423 Section 8. Section 61.1811, Florida Statutes, is amended 424 to read:

425

61.1811 Clerk of the Court Child Support Enforcement

Page 17 of 19

2023 Legislature

426	Collection System Trust FundThere is hereby created the Clerk
427	of the Court Child Support Enforcement Collection System Trust
428	Fund to be used to deposit the department's share of the fees
429	generated in <u>s. 61.181(2)(b)1.</u> s. 61.181(2)(b).
430	Section 9. Subsection (2) of section 61.1814, Florida
431	Statutes, is amended to read:
432	61.1814 Child Support Enforcement Application and Program
433	Revenue Trust Fund
434	(2) With the exception of fees required to be deposited in
435	the Clerk of the Court Child Support Enforcement Collection
436	System Trust Fund under <u>s. 61.181(2)(b)1.</u> s. 61.181(2)(b) and
437	collections determined to be undistributable or unidentifiable
438	under s. 409.2558, the fund shall be used for the deposit of
439	Title IV-D program income received by the department. Each type
440	of program income received <u>must</u> shall be accounted for
441	separately. Program income received by the department includes,
442	but is not limited to, all of the following:
443	(a) Application fees of nonpublic assistance applicants
444	for child support enforcement services $\underline{\cdot} au$
445	(b) Court-ordered costs recovered from child support
446	obligors <u>.</u> +
447	(c) Interest on child support collections $\underline{\cdot} +$
448	(d) The balance of the fee fees received under s.
449	<u>61.181(2)(b)3.</u> s. 61.181(2)(a) on non-Title IV-D cases required
450	to be processed through the State Disbursement Unit after the
	Page 18 of 19

2023 Legislature

451 clerk's share is paid.+ Fines imposed under ss. 409.256(7)(b), 409.2564(7), 452 (e) 453 and 409.2578.; and 454 (f) The annual fee required under s. 409.2567. 455 Section 10. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon 456 457 this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1, 458 2023.

Page 19 of 19