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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to family law; amending s. 88.1011, F.S.;
3 revising and providing definitions; amending s. 88.1021,
4 F.S.; designating the Department of Revenue as the support
5 enforcement agency of this state; amending s. 88.1031,
6 F.S.; revising provisions relating to remedies provided by
7 the act; creating s. 88.1041, F.S.; providing for
8 applicability of provisions to residents of foreign
9 counties and foreign support proceedings; amending s.
10 88.2011, F.S.; providing that specified bases of personal
11 jurisdiction may not be used to acquire personal
12 jurisdiction for certain purposes unless specified
13 requirements are met; amending s. 88.2021, F.S.; providing
14 for duration of personal jurisdiction; deleting provisions
15 relating to procedure when exercising jurisdiction over
16 nonresident; amending ss. 88.2031 and 88.2041, F.S.;
17 conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending
18 s. 88.2051, F.S.; revising provisions relating to
19 continuation of exclusive jurisdiction; amending s.
20 88.2061, F.S.; providing for continuing jurisdiction to
21 enforce child support orders; amending s. 88.2071, F.S.;
22 revising provisions relating to determination of a
23 controlling child support order; amending s. 88.2081,
24 F.S.; revising language relating to child support orders
25 for two or more obligees; amending s. 88.2091, F.S.;
26 revising language relating to credit for child support
27 payments; creating s. 88.2101, F.S.; providing for
28 application of the act to a nonresident subject to

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personal jurisdiction; creating s. 88.2111, F.S.;
providing for continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify
a spousal support order; amending s. 88.3011, F.S.;
revising provisions relating to applicability of the act;
amending ss. 88.3021 and 88.3031, F.S.; revising
terminology; amending s. 88.3041, F.S.; revising
provisions relating to duties of an initiating tribunal;
amending s. 88.3051, F.S.; revising provisions relating to
duties and powers of a responding tribunal; amending s.
88.3061, F.S.; revising terminology; amending s. 88.3071,
F.S.; revising provisions relating to the duties of a
support enforcement agency; amending s. 88.3081, F.S.;
providing that the Governor and Cabinet may determine that
a foreign country has established a reciprocal arrangement
for child support with this state and take appropriate
action for notification of the determination; amending s.
88.3101, F.S.; revising terminology; amending s. 88.3111,
F.S.; revising provisions relating to pleadings and
accompanying documents; amending s. 88.3121, F.S.;
revising requirements for nondisclosure of certain
information; amending ss. 88.3131 and 88.3141, F.S.;
revising terminology; amending s. 88.3161, F.S.; revising
provisions relating to special rules of evidence and
procedure; amending ss. 88.3171 and 88.3181, F.S.;
revising terminology; amending s. 88.3191, F.S.; revising
provisions relating to receipt and disbursement of
payments; amending s. 88.4011, F.S.; revising provisions
relating to establishment of a support order; creating s.

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88.4021, F.S.; providing that certain tribunals of this state may serve as responding tribunals in proceedings to determine parentage of a child under certain provisions; providing a directive to the Division of Statutory Revision; amending s. 88.5011, F.S.; revising provisions relating to an employer's receipt of an income-withholding order from another state; amending ss. 88.50211, 88.5031, 88.5041, and 88.5051, F.S.; revising terminology; amending s. 88.5061, F.S.; revising provisions relating to a contest by obligor; amending s. 88.5071, F.S.; revising terminology; providing a directive to the Division of Statutory Revision; amending s. 88.6011, F.S.; revising terminology; amending s. 88.6021, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the procedure to register order for enforcement; amending s. 88.6031, F.S.; revising terminology; amending s. 88.6041, F.S.; revising provisions relating to choice of law; amending s. 88.6051, F.S.; revising provisions relating to notice of registration of order; amending s. 88.6061, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the procedure to contest the validity or enforcement of a registered order; amending s. 88.6071, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the contesting of registration or enforcement; amending s. 88.6081, F.S.; revising terminology; amending s. 88.6091, F.S.; correcting a cross-reference; amending s. 88.6111, F.S.; revising provisions relating to modification of a child support order of another state; amending s. 88.6121, F.S.; revising provisions relating to recognition of a

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child support order modified in another state; creating s. 88.6151, F.S.; providing for jurisdiction to modify a child support order of a foreign country; creating s. 88.6161, F.S.; providing procedures for registration of a child support order of a foreign country for modification; providing a directive to the Division of Statutory Revision; repealing s. 88.7011, F.S., relating to a proceeding to determine parentage of a child; creating s. 88.70111, F.S.; providing definitions relating to a support proceeding under the Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance; creating s. 88.7021, F.S.; providing for applicability; creating s. 88.7031, F.S.; specifying the relationship of the Department of Revenue to the United States central authority; creating s. 88.7041, F.S.; providing for initiation by the Department of Revenue of support proceedings under the convention; creating s. 88.7051, F.S.; providing for direct requests to tribunals; creating s. 88.7061, F.S.; providing for registration of convention support orders; creating s. 88.7071, F.S.; providing for contest of registered convention support orders; creating s. 88.7081, F.S.; providing for recognition and enforcement of registered convention support orders; creating s. 88.7091, F.S.; providing for partial enforcement of convention support orders; creating s. 88.7101, F.S.; providing requirements for a foreign support agreement; creating s. 88.7111, F.S.; providing for modification of convention child

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support orders; creating s. 88.7121, F.S.; providing limits on the personal use of certain information; creating s. 88.7131, F.S.; requiring a record filed with a tribunal of this state under specified provisions to be in the original language and, if not in English, to be accompanied by an English translation; amending s. 88.8011, F.S.; revising terminology; amending s. 88.9011, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the uniformity of application and construction of the act; creating s. 88.9021, F.S.; providing applicability; amending s. 88.9031, F.S.; revising terminology; amending ss. 61.13 and 827.06, F.S.; correcting cross-references; directing the Department of Revenue to apply for a waiver; amending s. 61.08, F.S.; revising provisions relating to factors to be considered for alimony awards; revising provisions relating to awards of durational alimony; revising provisions relating to awards of permanent alimony; providing that the award of alimony may not leave the payor with significantly less net income than the net income of the recipient unless there are written findings of exceptional circumstances; providing for applicability of specified provisions; providing effective dates.

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

Section 1. Section 88.1011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

88.1011 Definitions.—As used in this act:

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(1) "Child" means an individual, whether over or under the age of majority, who is or is alleged to be owed a duty of support by the individual's parent or who is or is alleged to be the beneficiary of a support order directed to the parent.

(2) "Child support order" means a support order for a child, including a child who has attained the age of majority under the law of the issuing state or foreign country.

(3) "Convention" means the Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance, concluded at The Hague on November 23, 2007.

~~(4) (3)~~ "Duty of support" means an obligation imposed or imposable by law to provide support for a child, spouse, or former spouse, including an unsatisfied obligation to provide support.

(5) "Foreign country" means a country, including a political subdivision thereof, other than the United States, that authorizes the issuance of support orders and:

(a) Which has been declared under the law of the United States to be a foreign reciprocating country;

(b) Which has established a reciprocal arrangement for child support with this state as provided in s. 88.3081;

(c) Which has enacted a law or established procedures for the issuance and enforcement of support orders which are substantially similar to the procedures under this act; or

(d) In which the convention is in force with respect to the United States.

(6) "Foreign support order" means a support order of a foreign tribunal.

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(7) "Foreign tribunal" means a court, administrative agency, or quasi-judicial entity of a foreign country which is authorized to establish, enforce, or modify support orders or to determine parentage of a child. The term includes a competent authority under the convention.

~~(8)-(4)~~ "Home state" means the state or foreign country in which a child lived with a parent or a person acting as parent for at least 6 consecutive months immediately preceding the time of filing of a petition or comparable pleading for support and, if a child is less than 6 months old, the state or foreign country in which the child lived from birth with any of them. A period of temporary absence of any of them is counted as part of the 6-month or other period.

~~(9)-(5)~~ "Income" includes earnings or other periodic entitlements to money from any source and any other property subject to withholding for support under the law of this state.

~~(10)-(6)~~ "Income-withholding order" means an order or other legal process directed to an obligor's employer or other debtor, as defined by the income deduction law of this state, or payor as defined by s. 61.046, to withhold support from the income of the obligor.

~~(7) "Initiating state" means a state from which a proceeding is forwarded or in which a proceeding is filed for forwarding to a responding state under this act or a law or procedure substantially similar to this act, the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act, or the Revised Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act.~~

(11)-(8) "Initiating tribunal" means the ~~authorized~~

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tribunal of a state or foreign country from which a petition or
comparable pleading is forwarded or in which a petition or
comparable pleading is filed for forwarding to another state or
foreign country ~~in an initiating state.~~

(12) "Issuing foreign country" means the foreign country
in which a tribunal issues a support order or a judgment
determining parentage of a child.

(13) ~~(9)~~ "Issuing state" means the state in which a
tribunal issues a support order or renders a judgment
determining parentage of a child.

(14) ~~(10)~~ "Issuing tribunal" means the tribunal of a state
or foreign country that issues a support order or ~~renders~~ a
judgment determining parentage of a child.

(15) ~~(11)~~ "Law" includes decisional and statutory law and
rules and regulations having the force of law.

(16) ~~(12)~~ "Obligee" means:

(a) An individual to whom a duty of support is or is
alleged to be owed or in whose favor a support order ~~has been~~
~~issued~~ or a judgment determining parentage of a child has been
issued ~~rendered;~~

(b) A foreign country, state, or political subdivision of
a state to which the rights under a duty of support or support
order have been assigned or which has independent claims based
on financial assistance provided to an individual obligee in
place of child support; ~~or~~

(c) An individual seeking a judgment determining parentage
of the individual's child; or

(d) A person that is a creditor in a proceeding under part

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VII of this chapter.

~~(17)(13)~~ "Obligor" means an individual, or the estate of a decedent that:

(a) ~~who~~ Owes or is alleged to owe a duty of support;

(b) ~~who~~ Is alleged but has not been adjudicated to be a parent of a child; or

(c) ~~who~~ Is liable under a support order; or

(d) Is a debtor in a proceeding under part VII.

(18) "Outside this state" means a location in another state or a country other than the United States, whether or not the country is a foreign country.

(19) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, public corporation, government, or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality or any other legal or commercial entity.

(20) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium that is retrievable in perceivable form.

~~(21)(14)~~ "Register" means to record or file in a tribunal of this state a support order or judgment determining parentage of a child issued in another state or a foreign country ~~in the Registry of Foreign Support Orders of the circuit court, or other appropriate location for the recording or filing of foreign judgments generally or foreign support orders specifically.~~

~~(22)(15)~~ "Registering tribunal" means a tribunal in which a support order or judgment determining parentage of a child is

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253 registered.

254 ~~(23)(16)~~ "Responding state" means a state in which a
255 petition or comparable pleading for support or to determine
256 parentage of a child ~~proceeding~~ is filed or to which a petition
257 or comparable pleading ~~proceeding~~ is forwarded for filing from
258 another state or a foreign country ~~an initiating state under~~
259 ~~this act or a law or procedure substantially similar to this~~
260 ~~act, the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act, or the~~
261 ~~Revised Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act.~~

262 ~~(24)(17)~~ "Responding tribunal" means the authorized
263 tribunal in a responding state or a foreign country.

264 ~~(25)(18)~~ "Spousal-support order" means a support order for
265 a spouse or former spouse of the obligor.

266 ~~(26)(19)~~ "State" means a state of the United States, the
267 District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin
268 Islands, or any territory or insular possession under ~~subject to~~
269 the jurisdiction of the United States. The term includes:

270 ~~(a)~~ an Indian nation or tribe; ~~and~~

271 ~~(b)~~ ~~A foreign jurisdiction that has enacted a law or~~
272 ~~established procedures for issuance and enforcement of support~~
273 ~~orders which are substantially similar to the procedures under~~
274 ~~this act, the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act, or~~
275 ~~the Revised Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act, as~~
276 ~~determined by the Attorney General.~~

277 ~~(27)(20)~~ "Support enforcement agency" means a public
278 official, governmental entity, or private agency authorized to
279 seek:

280 (a) Seek enforcement of support orders or laws relating to

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the duty of support;

(b) Seek establishment or modification of child support;

(c) Request determination of parentage of a child; ~~or~~

(d) Attempt to locate obligors or their assets; or

(e) Request determination of the controlling child support order.

~~(28)(21)~~ "Support order" means a judgment, decree, ~~or~~ order, decision, or directive, whether temporary, final, or subject to modification, issued in a state or foreign country for the benefit of a child, a spouse, or a former spouse, which provides for monetary support, health care, arrearages, retroactive support, or reimbursement for financial assistance provided to an individual obligee in place of child support. The term, and may include related costs and fees, interest, income withholding, automatic adjustment, reasonable attorney's fees, and other relief.

~~(29)(22)~~ "Tribunal" means a court, administrative agency, or quasi-judicial entity authorized to establish, enforce, or modify support orders or to determine parentage of a child.

Section 2. Section 88.1021, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

88.1021 ~~Tribunal of State~~ tribunal and support enforcement agency.—

(1) The circuit court or other appropriate court, administrative agency, quasi-judicial entity, or combination is the tribunal of this state.

(2) The Department of Revenue is the support enforcement agency of this state.

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Section 3. Section 88.1031, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

88.1031 Remedies cumulative.—

(1) Remedies provided by this act are cumulative and do not affect the availability of remedies under other law, or the recognition of a foreign support order on the basis of comity.

(2) This act does not:

(a) Provide the exclusive method of establishing or enforcing a support order under the law of this state; or

(b) Grant a tribunal of this state jurisdiction to render judgment or issue an order relating to child custody or visitation in a proceeding under this act.

Section 4. Section 88.1041, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

88.1041 Application of act to resident of foreign country and foreign support proceeding.—

(1) A tribunal of this state shall apply parts I through VI of this chapter, and, as applicable, part VII of this chapter, to a support proceeding involving:

(a) A foreign support order;

(b) A foreign tribunal; or

(c) An obligee, obligor, or child residing in a foreign country.

(2) A tribunal of this state that is requested to recognize and enforce a support order on the basis of comity may apply the procedural and substantive provisions of parts I through VI of this chapter.

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336 (3) Part VII of this chapter applies only to a support
337 proceeding under the convention. In such a proceeding, if a
338 provision of part VII of this chapter is inconsistent with parts
339 I through VI of this chapter, part VII of this chapter controls.

340 Section 5. Section 88.2011, Florida Statutes, is amended
341 to read:

342 88.2011 Bases for jurisdiction over nonresident.—

343 (1) In a proceeding to establish ~~or~~, enforce, ~~or modify~~ a
344 support order or to determine parentage of a child, a tribunal
345 of this state may exercise personal jurisdiction over a
346 nonresident individual or the individual's guardian or
347 conservator if:

348 (a)(1) The individual is personally served with citation,
349 summons, or notice within this state;

350 (b)(2) The individual submits to the jurisdiction of this
351 state by consent in a record, by entering a general appearance,
352 or by filing a responsive document having the effect of waiving
353 any contest to personal jurisdiction;

354 (c)(3) The individual resided with the child in this
355 state;

356 (d)(4) The individual resided in this state and provided
357 prenatal expenses or support for the child;

358 (e)(5) The child resides in this state as a result of the
359 acts or directives of the individual;

360 (f)(6) The individual engaged in sexual intercourse in
361 this state and the child may have been conceived by that act of
362 intercourse;

363 (g)(7) The individual asserted parentage of a child in a

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tribunal or in a putative father registry maintained in this state by the appropriate agency; or

(h)~~(8)~~ There is any other basis consistent with the constitutions of this state and the United States for the exercise of personal jurisdiction.

(2) The bases of personal jurisdiction set forth in subsection (1) or in any other law of this state may not be used to acquire personal jurisdiction for tribunal of this state to modify a child support order of another state unless the requirements of s. 88.6111 are met, or, in the case of a foreign support order, unless the requirements of s. 88.6151 are met.

Section 6. Section 88.2021, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

88.2021 Duration of personal ~~Procedure when exercising jurisdiction over nonresident.~~ Personal jurisdiction acquired by a tribunal of this state in a proceeding under this act or other law of this state relating to a support order continues as long as a tribunal of this state has continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify its order or continuing jurisdiction to enforce its order as provided by ss. 88.2051, 88.2061, and 88.2111 ~~A tribunal of this state exercising personal jurisdiction over a nonresident under s. 88.2011 may apply s. 88.3161 (special rules of evidence and procedure) to receive evidence from another state, and s. 88.3181 (assistance with discovery) to obtain discovery through a tribunal of another state. In all other respects, parts III through VII of this chapter do not apply and the tribunal shall apply the procedural and substantive law of this state, including the rules on choice~~

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392 ~~of law other than those established by this act.~~

393 Section 7. Section 88.2031, Florida Statutes, is amended
394 to read:

395 88.2031 Initiating and responding tribunal of state.—Under
396 this act, a tribunal of this state may serve as an initiating
397 tribunal to forward proceedings to a tribunal of another state
398 and as a responding tribunal for proceedings initiated in
399 another state or a foreign country.

400 Section 8. Section 88.2041, Florida Statutes, is amended
401 to read:

402 88.2041 Simultaneous proceedings in another state.—

403 (1) A tribunal of this state may exercise jurisdiction to
404 establish a support order if the petition or comparable pleading
405 is filed after a petition or comparable pleading is filed in
406 another state or a foreign country only if:

407 (a) The petition or comparable pleading in this state is
408 filed before the expiration of the time allowed in the other
409 state or the foreign country for filing a responsive pleading
410 challenging the exercise of jurisdiction by the other state or
411 the foreign country;

412 (b) The contesting party timely challenges the exercise of
413 jurisdiction in the other state or the foreign country; and

414 (c) If relevant, this state is the home state of the
415 child.

416 (2) A tribunal of this state may not exercise jurisdiction
417 to establish a support order if the petition or comparable
418 pleading is filed before a petition or comparable pleading is
419 filed in another state or a foreign country if:

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420 (a) The petition or comparable pleading in the other state
421 or the foreign country is filed before the expiration of the
422 time allowed in this state for filing a responsive pleading
423 challenging the exercise of jurisdiction by this state;

424 (b) The contesting party timely challenges the exercise of
425 jurisdiction in this state; and

426 (c) If relevant, the other state or the foreign country is
427 the home state of the child.

428 Section 9. Section 88.2051, Florida Statutes, is amended
429 to read:

430 88.2051 Continuing exclusive jurisdiction.—

431 (1) A tribunal of this state that has issued ~~issuing~~ a
432 child support order consistent with the law of this state has
433 and shall exercise continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify
434 its ~~over a~~ child support order if the order is the controlling
435 order and:

436 (a) At the time of the filing of a request for
437 modification, As long as this state is ~~remains~~ the residence of
438 the obligor, the individual obligee, or the child for whose
439 benefit the support order is issued; or

440 (b) Even if this state is not the residence of the
441 obligor, the individual obligee, or the child for whose benefit
442 the support order is issued, the parties consent in a record or
443 in open court that the tribunal of this state may continue to
444 exercise jurisdiction to modify its order ~~Until all of the~~
445 ~~parties who are individuals have filed written consents with the~~
446 ~~tribunal of this state for a tribunal of another state to modify~~
447 ~~the order and assume continuing exclusive jurisdiction.~~

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448 (2) A tribunal of this state that has issued ~~issuing~~ a
449 child support order consistent with the law of this state may
450 not exercise ~~its~~ continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify
451 the order if: ~~the order has been modified by a tribunal of~~
452 ~~another state pursuant to this act or a law substantially~~
453 ~~similar to this act.~~

454 (a) All of the parties who are individuals file consent in
455 a record with the tribunal of this state that a tribunal of
456 another state that has jurisdiction over at least one of the
457 parties who is an individual or that is located in the state of
458 residence of the child may modify the order and assume
459 continuing, exclusive jurisdiction; or

460 (b) Its order is not the controlling order.

461 ~~(3) If a child support order of this state is modified by~~
462 ~~a tribunal of another state pursuant to this act or a law~~
463 ~~substantially similar to this act, a tribunal of this state~~
464 ~~loses its continuing exclusive jurisdiction with regard to~~
465 ~~prospective enforcement of the order issued in this state, and~~
466 ~~may only:~~

467 ~~(a) Enforce the order that was modified as to amounts~~
468 ~~accruing before the modification;~~

469 ~~(b) Enforce nonmodifiable aspects of that order; and~~

470 ~~(c) Provide other appropriate relief for violations of~~
471 ~~that order which occurred before the effective date of the~~
472 ~~modification.~~

473 (3)-(4) If a tribunal of this state shall recognize the
474 continuing exclusive jurisdiction of a tribunal of another state
475 which has issued a child support order pursuant to this act or a

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law substantially similar to this act which modifies a child support order of a tribunal of this state, tribunals of this state shall recognize the continuing, exclusive jurisdiction of the tribunal of the other state.

(4) A tribunal of this state that lacks continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify a child support order may serve as an initiating tribunal to request a tribunal of another state to modify a support order issued in that state.

(5) A temporary support order issued ex parte or pending resolution of a jurisdictional conflict does not create continuing exclusive jurisdiction in the issuing tribunal.

~~(6) A tribunal of this state issuing a support order consistent with the law of this state has continuing exclusive jurisdiction over a spousal support order throughout the existence of the support obligation. A tribunal of this state may not modify a spousal support order issued by a tribunal of another state having continuing exclusive jurisdiction over that order under the law of that state.~~

Section 10. Section 88.2061, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

88.2061 ~~Enforcement and modification of support order by tribunal having~~ Continuing jurisdiction to enforce child support order.—

(1) A tribunal of this state that has issued a child support order consistent with the law of this state may serve as an initiating tribunal to request a tribunal of another state to enforce; ~~or modify a support order issued in that state.~~

(a) The order if the order is the controlling order and

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has not been modified by a tribunal of another state that assumed jurisdiction pursuant to the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act; or

(b) A money judgment for arrears of support and interest on the order accrued before a determination that an order of a tribunal of another state is the controlling order.

(2) A tribunal of this state having continuing ~~exclusive~~ jurisdiction over a support order may act as a responding tribunal to enforce ~~or modify~~ the order. ~~If a party subject to the continuing exclusive jurisdiction of the tribunal no longer resides in the issuing state, in subsequent proceedings the tribunal may apply s. 88.3161 (special rules of evidence and procedure) to receive evidence from another state and s. 88.3181 (assistance with discovery) to obtain discovery through a tribunal of another state.~~

~~(3) A tribunal of this state which lacks continuing exclusive jurisdiction over a spousal support order may not serve as a responding tribunal to modify a spousal support order of another state.~~

Section 11. Section 88.2071, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

88.2071 Determination ~~Recognition~~ of controlling child support order.—

(1) If a proceeding is brought under this act and only one tribunal has issued a child support order, the order of that tribunal controls and must be ~~so~~ recognized.

(2) If a proceeding is brought under this act, and two or more child support orders have been issued by tribunals of this

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532 state, ~~or~~ another state, or a foreign country with regard to the
533 same obligor and the same child, a tribunal of this state having
534 personal jurisdiction over both the obligor and individual
535 obligee shall apply the following rules and by order shall
536 determine ~~in determining~~ which order controls and must be
537 recognized ~~to recognize for purposes of continuing, exclusive~~
538 ~~jurisdiction:~~

539 (a) If only one of the tribunals would have continuing,
540 exclusive jurisdiction under this act, the order of that
541 tribunal controls ~~and must be so recognized.~~

542 (b) If more than one of the tribunals would have
543 continuing, exclusive jurisdiction under this act:7

544 1. An order issued by a tribunal in the current home state
545 of the child controls; or ~~and must be so recognized, but~~

546 2. If an order has not been issued in the current home
547 state of the child, the order most recently issued controls ~~and~~
548 ~~must be so recognized.~~

549 (c) If none of the tribunals would have continuing,
550 exclusive jurisdiction under this act, the tribunal of this
551 state ~~having jurisdiction over the parties~~ shall issue a child
552 support order, which controls ~~and must be so recognized.~~

553 (3) If two or more child support orders have been issued
554 for the same obligor and the same child, upon request of ~~and if~~
555 ~~the obligor or the individual obligee resides in this state,~~ a
556 party who is an individual or that is a support enforcement
557 agency, ~~may request~~ a tribunal of this state having personal
558 jurisdiction over both the obligor and the obligee who is an
559 individual shall ~~to~~ determine which order controls ~~and must be~~

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~~so recognized~~ under subsection (2). The request may be filed
with a registration for enforcement or registration for
modification pursuant to part VI of this chapter, or may be
filed as a separate proceeding ~~must be accompanied by a~~
~~certified copy of every support order in effect. The requesting~~
~~party shall give notice of the request to each party whose~~
~~rights may be affected by the determination.~~

(4) A request to determine which is the controlling order
must be accompanied by a copy of every child support order in
effect and the applicable record of payments. The requesting
party shall give notice of the request to each party whose
rights may be affected by the determination.

~~(5)(4)~~ The tribunal that issued the controlling order
under subsection (1), subsection (2), or subsection (3) ~~is the~~
~~tribunal that~~ has continuing, ~~exclusive~~ jurisdiction to the
extent provided in s. 88.2051 or s. 88.2061.

~~(6)(5)~~ A tribunal of this state that ~~which~~ determines by
order which is the identity of the controlling order under
paragraph (2)(a), ~~or~~ paragraph (2)(b), or subsection (3) or that
~~which~~ issues a new controlling order under paragraph (2)(c)
shall state in that order:

(a) The basis upon which the tribunal made its
determination;

(b) The amount of prospective support, if any; and

(c) The total amount of consolidated arrears and accrued
interest, if any, under all of the orders after all payments
made are credited as provided by s. 88.2091.

~~(7)(6)~~ Within 30 days after issuance of an order

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determining which is the identity of the controlling order, the party obtaining the order shall file a certified copy of it in ~~with~~ each tribunal that issued or registered an earlier order of child support. A party or support enforcement agency obtaining ~~who obtains~~ the order that ~~and~~ fails to file a certified copy is subject to appropriate sanctions by a tribunal in which the issue of failure to file arises. The failure to file does not affect the validity or enforceability of the controlling order.

(8) An order that has been determined to be the controlling order, or a judgment for consolidated arrears of support and interest, if any, made pursuant to this section must be recognized in proceedings under this act.

Section 12. Section 88.2081, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

88.2081 ~~Multiple~~ Child support orders for two or more obligees.—In responding to ~~multiple~~ registrations, petitions, or comparable pleadings for enforcement of two or more child support orders in effect at the same time with regard to the same obligor and different individual obligees, at least one of which was issued by a tribunal of another state or a foreign country, a tribunal of this state shall enforce those orders in the same manner as if the ~~multiple~~ orders had been issued by a tribunal of this state.

Section 13. Section 88.2091, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

88.2091 Credit for payments.—A tribunal of this state shall credit amounts collected ~~and credited~~ for a particular period pursuant to any child support order against the amounts

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owed for the same period under any other child support order for support of the same child ~~a support order issued by a tribunal of another state must be credited against the amounts accruing or accrued for the same period under a support order~~ issued by the tribunal of this state, another state, or a foreign country.

Section 14. Section 88.2101, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

88.2101 Application of act to nonresident subject to personal jurisdiction.—A tribunal of this state exercising personal jurisdiction over a nonresident in a proceeding under this act, under another law of this state relating to a support order, or recognizing a foreign support order may receive evidence from outside this state pursuant to s. 88.3161, communicate with a tribunal outside this state pursuant to s. 88.3171, and obtain discovery through a tribunal outside this state pursuant to s. 88.3181. In all other respects, parts III through VI of this chapter do not apply, and the tribunal shall apply the procedural and substantive law of this state.

Section 15. Section 88.2111, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

88.2111 Continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify spousal support order.—

(1) A tribunal of this state issuing a spousal support order consistent with the law of this state has continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify the spousal support order throughout the existence of the support obligation.

(2) A tribunal of this state may not modify a spousal support order issued by a tribunal of another state or foreign

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country having continuing, exclusive jurisdiction over that order under the law of that state or foreign country.

(3) A tribunal of this state that has continuing, exclusive jurisdiction over a spousal support order may serve as:

(a) An initiating tribunal to request a tribunal of another state to enforce the spousal support order issued in this state; or

(b) A responding tribunal to enforce or modify its own spousal support order.

Section 16. Section 88.3011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

88.3011 Proceedings under this act.—

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this act, this part ~~article~~ applies to all proceedings under this act.

~~(2) This act provides for the following proceedings:~~

~~(a) Establishment of an order for spousal support or child support pursuant to part IV;~~

~~(b) Enforcement of a support order and income withholding order of another state without registration pursuant to part V;~~

~~(c) Registration of an order for spousal support or child support of another state for enforcement pursuant to part VI;~~

~~(d) Modification of an order for child support or spousal support issued by a tribunal of this state pursuant to ss.~~

~~88.2031-88.2061;~~

~~(e) Registration of an order for child support of another state for modification pursuant to part VI;~~

~~(f) Determination of parentage pursuant to part VII; and~~

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~~(g) Assertion of jurisdiction over nonresidents pursuant to ss. 88.2011-88.2021.~~

~~(2)(3)~~ An individual petitioner or a support enforcement agency may initiate ~~commence~~ a proceeding authorized under this act by filing a petition or a comparable pleading in an initiating tribunal for forwarding to a responding tribunal or by filing a petition or a comparable pleading directly in a tribunal of another state or a foreign country which has or can obtain personal jurisdiction over the respondent.

Section 17. Section 88.3021, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

88.3021 Proceeding ~~Action~~ by minor parent.—A minor parent, or a guardian or other legal representative of a minor parent, may maintain a proceeding on behalf of or for the benefit of the minor's child.

Section 18. Section 88.3031, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

88.3031 Application of law of state.—Except as otherwise provided in ~~by~~ this act, a responding tribunal of this state shall:

(1) ~~Shall~~ Apply the procedural and substantive law ~~including the rules on choice of law,~~ generally applicable to similar proceedings originating in this state and may exercise all powers and provide all remedies available in those proceedings; and

(2) ~~Shall~~ Determine the duty of support and the amount payable in accordance with the law and support guidelines of this state.

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700 Section 19. Section 88.3041, Florida Statutes, is amended
701 to read:

702 88.3041 Duties of initiating tribunal.—

703 (1) Upon the filing of a petition or comparable pleading
704 authorized by this act, an initiating tribunal of this state
705 shall forward ~~three copies of~~ the petition and its accompanying
706 documents or a comparable pleading and its accompanying
707 documents:

708 (a) To the responding tribunal or appropriate support
709 enforcement agency in the responding state; or

710 (b) If the identity of the responding tribunal is unknown,
711 to the state information agency of the responding state with a
712 request that they be forwarded to the appropriate tribunal and
713 that receipt be acknowledged.

714 (2) If requested by the responding tribunal ~~a responding~~
715 ~~state has not enacted this act or a law or procedure~~
716 ~~substantially similar to this act,~~ a tribunal of this state
717 shall ~~may~~ issue a certificate or other document and make
718 findings required by the law of the responding state. If the
719 responding tribunal ~~state~~ is in a foreign country ~~jurisdiction,~~
720 upon request the tribunal of this state ~~shall~~ ~~may~~ specify the
721 amount of support sought, convert that amount into the
722 equivalent amount in the foreign currency under applicable
723 official or market exchange rate as publicly reported, and
724 provide any other documents necessary to satisfy the
725 requirements of the responding foreign tribunal ~~state~~.

726 Section 20. Section 88.3051, Florida Statutes, is amended
727 to read:

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88.3051 Duties and powers of responding tribunal.—

(1) When a responding tribunal of this state receives a petition or comparable pleading from an initiating tribunal or directly pursuant to s. 88.3011 (2) ~~(3)~~, it shall cause the petition or comparable pleading to be filed and notify the petitioner where and when it was filed.

(2) A responding tribunal of this state, to the extent not prohibited ~~otherwise authorized~~ by other law, may do one or more of the following:

(a) Establish ~~Issue~~ or enforce a support order, modify a child support order, determine the controlling child support order, or ~~render a judgment to~~ determine parentage of a child.

(b) Order an obligor to comply with a support order, specifying the amount and the manner of compliance.

(c) Order income withholding.

(d) Determine the amount of any arrearages, and specify a method of payment.

(e) Enforce orders by civil or criminal contempt, or both.

(f) Set aside property for satisfaction of the support order.

(g) Place liens and order execution on the obligor's property.

(h) Order an obligor to keep the tribunal informed of the obligor's current residential address, electronic mail address, telephone number, employer, address of employment, and telephone number at the place of employment.

(i) Issue a bench warrant, capias, or writ of bodily attachment for an obligor who has failed after proper notice to

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756 appear at a hearing ordered by the tribunal and enter the bench
757 warrant, capias, or writ of bodily attachment in any local and
758 state computer systems for criminal warrants.

759 (j) Order the obligor to seek appropriate employment by
760 specified methods.

761 (k) Award reasonable attorney's fees and other fees and
762 costs.

763 (l) Grant any other available remedy.

764 (3) A responding tribunal of this state shall include in a
765 support order issued under this act, or in the documents
766 accompanying the order, the calculations on which the support
767 order is based.

768 (4) A responding tribunal of this state may not condition
769 the payment of a support order issued under this act upon
770 compliance by a party with provisions for visitation.

771 (5) If a responding tribunal of this state issues an order
772 under this act, the tribunal shall send a copy of the order to
773 the petitioner and the respondent and to the initiating
774 tribunal, if any.

775 (6) If requested to enforce a support order, arrears, or
776 judgment, or modify a support order stated in a foreign
777 currency, a responding tribunal of this state shall convert the
778 amount stated in the foreign currency to the equivalent amount
779 in dollars under the applicable official or market exchange rate
780 as publicly reported.

781 Section 21. Section 88.3061, Florida Statutes, is amended
782 to read:

783 88.3061 Inappropriate tribunal.—If a petition or

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784 comparable pleading is received by an inappropriate tribunal of
785 this state, the tribunal ~~it~~ shall forward the pleading and
786 accompanying documents to an appropriate tribunal of ~~in~~ this
787 state or another state and notify the petitioner where and when
788 the pleading was sent.

789 Section 22. Section 88.3071, Florida Statutes, is amended
790 to read:

791 88.3071 Duties of support enforcement agency.—

792 (1) In a proceeding under this act, a support enforcement
793 agency of this state, upon request:

794 (a) Shall provide services to a petitioner residing in a
795 state;

796 (b) Shall provide services to a petitioner requesting
797 services through a central authority of a foreign country as
798 described in s. 88.1011(5)(a) or s. 88.1011(5)(d); and

799 (c) May provide services to a petitioner who is an
800 individual not residing in a state ~~A support enforcement agency~~
801 ~~of this state, upon request, shall provide services to a~~
802 ~~petitioner in a proceeding under this act.~~

803 (2) A support enforcement agency that is providing
804 services to the petitioner as appropriate shall:

805 (a) Take all steps necessary to enable an appropriate
806 tribunal in this state, ~~or~~ another state, or a foreign country
807 to obtain jurisdiction over the respondent.

808 (b) Request an appropriate tribunal to set a date, time,
809 and place for a hearing.

810 (c) Make a reasonable effort to obtain all relevant
811 information, including information as to income and property of

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the parties.

(d) Within 10 days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, after receipt of a written notice from an initiating, responding, or registering tribunal, send a copy of the notice to the petitioner.

(e) Within 10 days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, after receipt of a written communication from the respondent or the respondent's attorney, send a copy of the communication to the petitioner.

(f) Notify the petitioner if jurisdiction over the respondent cannot be obtained.

(3) A support enforcement agency of this state that requests registration of a child support order in this state for enforcement or for modification shall make reasonable efforts:

(a) To ensure that the order to be registered is the controlling order; or

(b) If two or more child support orders exist and the identity of the controlling order has not been determined, to ensure that a request for such a determination is made in a tribunal having jurisdiction to do so.

(4) A support enforcement agency of this state that requests registration and enforcement of a support order, arrears, or judgment stated in a foreign currency shall convert the amounts stated in the foreign currency into the equivalent amounts in dollars under the applicable official or market exchange rate as publicly reported.

(5) A support enforcement agency of this state shall issue or request a tribunal of this state to issue a child support

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order and an income-withholding order that redirect payment of
current support, arrears, and interest if requested to do so by
a support enforcement agency of another state pursuant to s.
88.3191.

~~(6)(3)~~ This act does not create or negate a relationship
of attorney and client or other fiduciary relationship between a
support enforcement agency or the attorney for the agency and
the individual being assisted by the agency.

Section 23. Section 88.3081, Florida Statutes, is amended
to read:

88.3081 Duty of Governor and Cabinet.—

(1) If the Governor and Cabinet determine that the support
enforcement agency is neglecting or refusing to provide services
to an individual, the Governor and Cabinet may order the agency
to perform its duties under this act or may provide those
services directly to the individual.

(2) The Governor and Cabinet may determine that a foreign
country has established a reciprocal arrangement for child
support with this state and take appropriate action for
notification of the determination.

Section 24. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section
88.3101, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

88.3101 Duties of state information agency.—

(2) The state information agency shall:

(c) Forward to the appropriate tribunal in the place in
this state in which the ~~individual~~ obligee who is an individual
or the obligor resides, or in which the obligor's property is
believed to be located, all documents concerning a proceeding

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868 under this act received from another state or a foreign country
869 ~~an initiating tribunal or the state information agency of the~~
870 ~~initiating state.~~

871 Section 25. Subsection (1) of section 88.3111, Florida
872 Statutes, is amended to read:

873 88.3111 Pleadings and accompanying documents.—

874 (1) In a proceeding under this act, a petitioner seeking
875 to establish ~~or modify~~ a support order, ~~or~~ to determine
876 parentage of a child, or to register and modify a support order
877 of a tribunal of another state or a foreign country in a
878 ~~proceeding under this act~~ must file a ~~verify the~~ petition or
879 comparable pleading. Unless otherwise ordered under s. 88.3121
880 ~~(nondisclosure of information in exceptional circumstances),~~ the
881 petition or comparable pleading or the documents accompanying
882 either the petition or comparable pleading must provide, so far
883 as known, the name, residential address, and social security
884 numbers of the obligor and the obligee or the parent and alleged
885 parent, and the name, sex, residential address, social security
886 number, and date of birth of each child for whose benefit ~~whom~~
887 support is sought or whose parentage of a child is to be
888 determined. Unless filed at the time of registration, the
889 petition must be accompanied by a ~~certified~~ copy of any support
890 order known to have been issued by another tribunal in effect.
891 The petition may include any other information that may assist
892 in locating or identifying the respondent.

893 Section 26. Section 88.3121, Florida Statutes, is amended
894 to read:

895 88.3121 Nondisclosure of information in exceptional

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896 circumstances.—If a party alleges in an affidavit or a pleading
897 under oath that the health, safety, or liberty of a party or
898 child would be jeopardized by disclosure of specific identifying
899 information, that information must be sealed and may not be
900 disclosed to the other party or the public. After a hearing in
901 which a tribunal takes into consideration the health, safety, or
902 liberty of the party or child, the tribunal may order disclosure
903 of information that the tribunal determines to be in the
904 interest of justice ~~Upon a finding, which may be made ex parte,~~
905 ~~that the health, safety, or liberty of a party or child would be~~
906 ~~unreasonably put at risk by the disclosure of identifying~~
907 ~~information, or if an existing order so provides, a tribunal~~
908 ~~shall order that the address of the child or party or other~~
909 ~~identifying information not be disclosed in a pleading or other~~
910 ~~document filed in a proceeding under this act.~~

911 Section 27. Subsection (2) of section 88.3131, Florida
912 Statutes, is amended to read:

913 88.3131 Costs and fees.—

914 (2) If an obligee prevails, a responding tribunal of this
915 state may assess against an obligor filing fees, reasonable
916 attorney's fees, other costs, and necessary travel and other
917 reasonable expenses incurred by the obligee and the obligee's
918 witnesses. The tribunal may not assess fees, costs, or expenses
919 against the obligee or the support enforcement agency of either
920 the initiating or the responding state or foreign country,
921 except as provided by other law. Attorney's fees may be taxed as
922 costs, and may be ordered paid directly to the attorney, who may
923 enforce the order in the attorney's own name. Payment of support

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owed to the obligee has priority over fees, costs, and expenses.

Section 28. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 88.3141, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

88.3141 Limited immunity of petitioner.—

(1) Participation by a petitioner in a proceeding under this act before a responding tribunal, whether in person, by private attorney, or through services provided by the support enforcement agency, does not confer personal jurisdiction over the petitioner in another proceeding.

(3) The immunity granted by this section does not extend to civil litigation based on acts unrelated to a proceeding under this act committed by a party while physically present in this state to participate in the proceeding.

Section 29. Section 88.3161, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

88.3161 Special rules of evidence and procedure.—

(1) The physical presence of a nonresident party who is an individual ~~the petitioner~~ in a ~~responding~~ tribunal of this state is not required for the establishment, enforcement, or modification of a support order or the rendition of a judgment determining parentage of a child.

(2) ~~An A verified petition or other comparable pleading,~~ affidavit, a document substantially complying with federally mandated forms, or ~~and~~ a document incorporated by reference in any of them, which would not be excluded under the hearsay rule if given in person, is admissible in evidence if given under penalty of perjury ~~oath~~ by a party or witness residing outside this ~~in another~~ state.

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952 (3) A copy of the record of child support payments
953 certified as a true copy of the original by the custodian of the
954 record may be forwarded to a responding tribunal. The copy is
955 evidence of facts asserted in it, and is admissible to show
956 whether payments were made.

957 (4) Copies of bills for testing for parentage of a child,
958 and for prenatal and postnatal health care of the mother and
959 child, furnished to the adverse party at least 10 days before
960 trial, are admissible in evidence to prove the amount of the
961 charges billed and that the charges were reasonable, necessary,
962 and customary.

963 (5) Documentary evidence transmitted from outside this
964 ~~another~~ state to a tribunal of this state by telephone,
965 telecopier, or other electronic means that do not provide an
966 original record ~~writing~~ may not be excluded from evidence on an
967 objection based on the means of transmission.

968 (6) In a proceeding under this act, a tribunal of this
969 state shall ~~may~~ permit a party or witness residing outside this
970 ~~in another~~ state to be deposed or to testify by telephone,
971 audiovisual means, or other electronic means at a designated
972 tribunal or other location ~~in that state~~. A tribunal of this
973 state shall cooperate with other tribunals ~~of other states~~ in
974 designating an appropriate location for the deposition or
975 testimony.

976 (7) If a party called to testify at a civil hearing
977 refuses to answer on the ground that the testimony may be self-
978 incriminating, the trier of fact may draw an adverse inference
979 from the refusal.

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(8) A privilege against disclosure of communications between spouses does not apply in a proceeding under this act.

(9) The defense of immunity based on the relationship of husband and wife or parent and child does not apply in a proceeding under this act.

(10) A voluntary acknowledgment of paternity, certified as a true copy, is admissible to establish parentage of a child.

Section 30. Section 88.3171, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

88.3171 Communications between tribunals.—A tribunal of this state may communicate with a tribunal outside this ~~of~~ ~~another~~ state in a record writing, or by telephone, electronic mail, or other means, to obtain information concerning the laws of that state, the legal effect of a judgment, decree, or order of that tribunal, and the status of a proceeding ~~in the other state~~. A tribunal of this state may furnish similar information by similar means to a tribunal outside this ~~of another~~ state.

Section 31. Section 88.3181, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

88.3181 Assistance with discovery.—A tribunal of this state may:

(1) Request a tribunal outside this ~~of another~~ state to assist in obtaining discovery.

(2) Upon request, compel a person over which ~~whom~~ it has jurisdiction to respond to a discovery order issued by a tribunal outside this ~~of another~~ state.

Section 32. Section 88.3191, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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88.3191 Receipt and disbursement of payments.—

(1) A support enforcement agency or tribunal of this state shall disburse promptly any amounts received pursuant to a support order, as directed by the order. The agency or tribunal shall furnish to a requesting party or tribunal of another state or a foreign country a certified statement by the custodian of the record of the amounts and dates of all payments received.

(2) If neither the obligor, nor the obligee who is an individual, nor the child resides in this state, upon request from the support enforcement agency of this state or another state, the support enforcement agency of this state or a tribunal of this state shall:

(a) Direct that the support payment be made to the support enforcement agency in the state in which the obligee is receiving services; and

(b) Issue and send to the obligor's employer a conforming income-withholding order or an administrative notice of change of payee, reflecting the redirected payments.

(3) The support enforcement agency of this state receiving redirected payments from another state pursuant to a law similar to subsection (2) shall furnish to a requesting party or tribunal of the other state a certified statement by the custodian of the record of the amount and dates of all payments received.

Section 33. Section 88.4011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

88.4011 Establishment of ~~Petition to establish~~ support order.—

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1036 (1) If a support order entitled to recognition under this
1037 act has not been issued, a responding tribunal of this state
1038 with personal jurisdiction over the parties may issue a support
1039 order if:

1040 (a) The individual seeking the order resides outside this
1041 ~~in another~~ state; or

1042 (b) The support enforcement agency seeking the order is
1043 located outside this ~~in another~~ state.

1044 (2) The tribunal may issue a temporary child support order
1045 if the tribunal determines that such an order is appropriate and
1046 the individual ordered to pay is:

1047 (a) A presumed father of the child;

1048 (b) Petitioning to have his paternity adjudicated;

1049 (c) Identified as the father of the child through genetic
1050 testing;

1051 (d) An alleged father who has declined to submit to
1052 genetic testing;

1053 (e) Shown by clear and convincing evidence to be the
1054 father of the child;

1055 (f) An acknowledged father as provided in s. 382.013, s.
1056 382.016, or s. 742.10;

1057 (g) The mother of the child; or

1058 (h) An individual who has been ordered to pay child
1059 support in a previous proceeding and the order has not been
1060 reversed or vacated

1061 ~~(a) The respondent has signed a verified statement~~
1062 ~~acknowledging parentage;~~

1063 ~~(b) The respondent has been determined by or pursuant to~~

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1064 ~~law to be the parent; or~~

1065 ~~(c) There is other clear and convincing evidence that the~~
1066 ~~respondent is the child's parent.~~

1067 (3) Upon finding, after notice and opportunity to be
1068 heard, that an obligor owes a duty of support, the tribunal
1069 shall issue a support order directed to the obligor and may
1070 issue other orders pursuant to s. 88.3051.

1071 Section 34. Section 88.4021, Florida Statutes, is created
1072 to read:

1073 88.4021 Proceeding to determine parentage.—A tribunal of
1074 this state authorized to determine parentage of a child may
1075 serve as a responding tribunal in a proceeding to determine
1076 parentage of a child brought under this act or a law or
1077 procedure substantially similar to this act.

1078 Section 35. The Division of Statutory Revision is directed
1079 to redesignate part V of chapter 88, Florida Statutes, as
1080 "ENFORCEMENT OF SUPPORT ORDER OF ANOTHER STATE WITHOUT
1081 REGISTRATION."

1082 Section 36. Section 88.5011, Florida Statutes, is amended
1083 to read:

1084 88.5011 Employer's receipt of income-withholding order of
1085 another state.—An income-withholding order issued in another
1086 state may be sent by or on behalf of the obligee, or by the
1087 support enforcement agency, to the person ~~or entity~~ defined as
1088 the obligor's employer under the income deduction law of this
1089 state or payor as defined by s. 61.046, without first filing a
1090 petition or comparable pleading or registering the order with a
1091 tribunal of this state.

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1092 Section 37. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section
1093 88.50211, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1094 88.50211 Employer's compliance with income-withholding
1095 order of another state.—

1096 (3) Except as otherwise provided by subsection (4) and s.
1097 88.5031, the employer shall withhold and distribute the funds as
1098 directed in the withholding order by complying with the terms of
1099 the order which specify:

1100 (b) The person ~~or agency~~ designated to receive payments
1101 and the address to which the payments are to be forwarded;

1102 Section 38. Section 88.5031, Florida Statutes, is amended
1103 to read:

1104 88.5031 Employer's compliance with two or more ~~multiple~~
1105 income-withholding orders.—If the obligor's employer receives
1106 two or more ~~multiple~~ income-withholding orders with respect to
1107 the earnings of the same obligor, the employer satisfies the
1108 terms of the ~~multiple~~ orders if the employer complies with the
1109 law of the state of the obligor's principal place of employment
1110 to establish the priorities for withholding and allocating
1111 income withheld for two or more ~~multiple~~ child support obligees.

1112 Section 39. Section 88.5041, Florida Statutes, is amended
1113 to read:

1114 88.5041 Immunity from civil liability.—An employer that
1115 ~~who~~ complies with an income-withholding order issued in another
1116 state in accordance with this article is not subject to civil
1117 liability to an individual or agency with regard to the
1118 employer's withholding of child support from the obligor's
1119 income.

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1120 Section 40. Section 88.5051, Florida Statutes, is amended
1121 to read:

1122 88.5051 Penalties for noncompliance.—An employer that ~~who~~
1123 willfully fails to comply with an income-withholding order
1124 issued by another state and received for enforcement is subject
1125 to the same penalties that may be imposed for noncompliance with
1126 an order issued by a tribunal of this state.

1127 Section 41. Section 88.5061, Florida Statutes, is amended
1128 to read:

1129 88.5061 Contest by obligor.—

1130 (1) An obligor may contest the validity or enforcement of
1131 an income-withholding order issued in another state and received
1132 directly by an employer in this state by registering the order
1133 in a tribunal of this state and filing a contest to that order
1134 as provided in part VI of this chapter, or otherwise contesting
1135 the order in the same manner as if the order had been issued by
1136 a tribunal of this state. ~~Section 88.6041, choice of law,~~
1137 ~~applies to the contest.~~

1138 (2) The obligor shall give notice of the contest to:

1139 (a) A support enforcement agency providing services to the
1140 obligee;

1141 (b) Each employer that has directly received an income-
1142 withholding order relating to the obligor; and

1143 (c) The person ~~or agency~~ designated to receive payments in
1144 the income-withholding order, or if no person ~~or agency~~ is
1145 designated, to the obligee.

1146 Section 42. Subsection (1) of section 88.5071, Florida
1147 Statutes, is amended to read:

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88.5071 Administrative enforcement of orders.—

(1) A party or support enforcement agency seeking to enforce a support order or an income-withholding order, or both, issued in ~~by a tribunal of~~ another state or a foreign support order may send the documents required for registering the order to a support enforcement agency of this state.

Section 43. (1) The Division of Statutory Revision is directed to redesignate part VI of chapter 88, Florida Statutes, as "REGISTRATION, ENFORCEMENT, AND MODIFICATION OF SUPPORT ORDER."

(2) The Division of Statutory Revision is directed to divide part VI of chapter 88, Florida Statutes, into subpart A, consisting of ss. 88.6011-88.6041, Florida Statutes, to be entitled "Registration and Enforcement of Support Order;" subpart B, consisting of ss. 88.6051-88.6081, Florida Statutes, to be entitled "Contest of Validity or Enforcement;" subpart C, consisting of ss. 88.6091-88.6141, Florida Statutes, to be entitled "Registration and Modification of Child Support Order of Another State;" and subpart D, consisting of ss. 88.6151 and 88.6161, Florida Statutes, to be entitled "Registration and Modification of Foreign Child Support Order."

Section 44. Section 88.6011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

88.6011 Registration of order for enforcement.—A support order or an income-withholding order issued in ~~by a tribunal of~~ another state or a foreign support order may be registered in this state for enforcement.

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Section 45. Section 88.6021, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

88.6021 Procedure to register order for enforcement.—

(1) Except as otherwise provided in s. 88.7061, a support order or income-withholding order of another state or a foreign support order may be registered in this state by sending the following records ~~documents and information~~ to the appropriate tribunal in this state:

(a) A letter of transmittal to the tribunal requesting registration and enforcement.

(b) Two copies, including one certified copy, of the order ~~all orders~~ to be registered, including any modification of the ~~an~~ order.

(c) A sworn statement by the person requesting party ~~seeking~~ registration or a certified statement by the custodian of the records showing the amount of any arrearage.

(d) The name of the obligor and, if known:

1. The obligor's address and social security number.
2. The name and address of the obligor's employer and any other source of income of the obligor.

3. A description and the location of property of the obligor in this state not exempt from execution.

(e) Except as otherwise provided in s. 88.3121, the name and address of the obligee and, if applicable, the ~~agency or~~ person to whom support payments are to be remitted.

(2) On receipt of a request for registration, the registering tribunal shall cause the order to be filed as an order of a tribunal of another state or a foreign support order

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1203 ~~a foreign judgment~~, together with one copy of the documents and
1204 information, regardless of their form.

1205 (3) A petition or comparable pleading seeking a remedy
1206 that must be affirmatively sought under other law of this state
1207 may be filed at the same time as the request for registration or
1208 later. The pleading must specify the grounds for the remedy
1209 sought.

1210 (4) If two or more orders are in effect, the person
1211 requesting registration shall:

1212 (a) Furnish to the tribunal a copy of every support order
1213 asserted to be in effect in addition to the documents specified
1214 in this section;

1215 (b) Specify the order alleged to be the controlling order,
1216 if any; and

1217 (c) Specify the amount of consolidated arrears, if any.

1218 (5) A request for a determination of which is the
1219 controlling order may be filed separately or with a request for
1220 registration and enforcement or for registration and
1221 modification. The person requesting registration shall give
1222 notice of the request to each party whose rights may be affected
1223 by the determination.

1224 Section 46. Section 88.6031, Florida Statutes, is amended
1225 to read:

1226 88.6031 Effect of registration for enforcement.—

1227 (1) A support order or income-withholding order issued in
1228 another state or a foreign support order is registered when the
1229 order is filed in the registering tribunal of this state.

1230 (2) A registered support order issued in another state or

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1231 a foreign country is enforceable in the same manner and is
1232 subject to the same procedures as an order issued by a tribunal
1233 of this state.

1234 (3) Except as otherwise provided in this act ~~article~~, a
1235 tribunal of this state shall recognize and enforce, but may not
1236 modify, a registered support order if the issuing tribunal had
1237 jurisdiction.

1238 Section 47. Section 88.6041, Florida Statutes, is amended
1239 to read:

1240 88.6041 Choice of law.—

1241 (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4), the
1242 law of the issuing state or foreign country governs:

1243 (a) The nature, extent, amount, and duration of current
1244 payments under a registered support order; ~~and other obligations~~
1245 ~~of support and~~

1246 (b) The computation and payment of arrearages and accrual
1247 of interest on the arrearages under the order; and

1248 (c) The existence and satisfaction of other obligations
1249 under the support order.

1250 (2) In a proceeding for arrears under a registered support
1251 order ~~arrearages~~, the statute of limitation ~~under the laws~~ of
1252 this state or of the issuing state or foreign country, whichever
1253 is longer, applies.

1254 (3) A responding tribunal of this state shall apply the
1255 procedures and remedies of this state to enforce current support
1256 and collect arrears and interest due on a support order of
1257 another state or foreign country registered in this state.

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1258 (4) After a tribunal of this or another state determines
1259 which is the controlling order and issues an order consolidating
1260 arrears, if any, a tribunal of this state shall prospectively
1261 apply the law of the state or foreign country issuing the
1262 controlling order, including its law on interest on arrears, on
1263 current and future support, and on consolidated arrears.

1264 Section 48. Section 88.6051, Florida Statutes, is amended
1265 to read:

1266 88.6051 Notice of registration of order.—

1267 (1) When a support order or income-withholding order
1268 issued in another state or a foreign support order is
1269 registered, the registering tribunal of this state shall notify
1270 the nonregistering party. The notice must be accompanied by a
1271 copy of the registered order and the documents and relevant
1272 information accompanying the order.

1273 (2) A ~~The~~ notice must inform the nonregistering party:

1274 (a) That a registered order is enforceable as of the date
1275 of registration in the same manner as an order issued by a
1276 tribunal of this state.

1277 (b) That a hearing to contest the validity or enforcement
1278 of the registered order must be requested within 20 days after
1279 the date of mailing or personal service of the notice, unless
1280 the registered order is under s. 88.7071.

1281 (c) That failure to contest the validity or enforcement of
1282 the registered order in a timely manner will result in
1283 confirmation of the order and enforcement of the order and the
1284 alleged arrearages and precludes further contest of that order
1285 with respect to any matter that could have been asserted.

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(d) Of the amount of any alleged arrearages.

(3) If the registering party asserts that two or more orders are in effect, a notice must also:

(a) Identify the two or more orders and the order alleged by the registering party to be the controlling order and the consolidated arrears, if any;

(b) Notify the nonregistering party of the right to a determination of which is the controlling order;

(c) State that the procedures provided in subsection (2) apply to the determination of which is the controlling order; and

(d) State that failure to contest the validity or enforcement of the order alleged to be the controlling order in a timely manner may result in confirmation that the order is the controlling order.

(4)~~(3)~~ Upon registration of an income-withholding order for enforcement, the support enforcement agency or the registering tribunal shall notify the obligor's employer pursuant to chapter 61 or other income deduction law of this state.

Section 49. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 88.6061, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

88.6061 Procedure to contest validity or enforcement of registered order.—

(1) A nonregistering party seeking to contest the validity or enforcement of a registered order in this state shall request a hearing within the time required by s. 88.6051 ~~20 days after notice of the registration.~~ The nonregistering party may seek to

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vacate the registration, to assert any defense to an allegation of noncompliance with the registered order, or to contest the remedies being sought or the amount of any alleged arrearages pursuant to s. 88.6071.

(2) If the nonregistering party fails to contest the validity or enforcement of the registered support order in a timely manner, the order is confirmed by operation of law.

Section 50. Section 88.6071, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

88.6071 Contest of registration or enforcement.—

(1) A party contesting the validity or enforcement of a registered support order or seeking to vacate the registration has the burden of proving one or more of the following defenses:

(a) The issuing tribunal lacked personal jurisdiction over the contesting party;

(b) The order was obtained by fraud;

(c) The order has been vacated, suspended, or modified by a later order;

(d) The issuing tribunal has stayed the order pending appeal;

(e) There is a defense under the law of this state to the remedy sought;

(f) Full or partial payment has been made; ~~or~~

(g) The statute of limitation under s. 88.6041 precludes enforcement of some or all of the alleged arrearages; or

(h) The alleged controlling order is not the controlling order.

(2) If a party presents evidence establishing a full or

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1342 partial defense under subsection (1), a tribunal may stay
1343 enforcement of a ~~the~~ registered support order, continue the
1344 proceeding to permit production of additional relevant evidence,
1345 and issue other appropriate orders. An uncontested portion of
1346 the registered support order may be enforced by all remedies
1347 available under the law of this state.

1348 (3) If the contesting party does not establish a defense
1349 under subsection (1) to the validity or enforcement of a
1350 registered support ~~the~~ order, the registering tribunal shall
1351 issue an order confirming the order.

1352 Section 51. Section 88.6081, Florida Statutes, is amended
1353 to read:

1354 88.6081 Confirmed order.—Confirmation of a registered
1355 support order, whether by operation of law or after notice and
1356 hearing, precludes further contest of the order with respect to
1357 any matter that could have been asserted at the time of
1358 registration.

1359 Section 52. Section 88.6091, Florida Statutes, is amended
1360 to read:

1361 88.6091 Procedure to register child support order of
1362 another state for modification.—A party or support enforcement
1363 agency seeking to modify, or to modify and enforce, a child
1364 support order issued in another state shall register that order
1365 in this state in the same manner provided in ss. 88.6011-88.6081
1366 ~~88.6011-88.6041~~ if the order has not been registered. A petition
1367 for modification may be filed at the same time as a request for
1368 registration, or later. The pleading must specify the grounds
1369 for modification.

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1370 Section 53. Section 88.6111, Florida Statutes, is amended
1371 to read:

1372 88.6111 Modification of child support order of another
1373 state.—

1374 (1) If s. 88.6131 does not apply, upon petition, a
1375 tribunal of this state may modify ~~After~~ a child support order
1376 issued in another state which is ~~has been~~ registered in this
1377 state, ~~the responding tribunal of this state may modify that~~
1378 ~~order only if, s. 88.6131 does not apply and after notice and~~
1379 hearing, the tribunal ~~it~~ finds that:

1380 (a) The following requirements are met:

1381 1. Neither the child, nor the ~~individual~~ obligee who is an
1382 individual, nor ~~and~~ the obligor resides ~~do not reside~~ in the
1383 issuing state;

1384 2. A petitioner who is a nonresident of this state seeks
1385 modification; and

1386 3. The respondent is subject to the personal jurisdiction
1387 of the tribunal of this state; or

1388 (b) This state is the state of residence of the child, or
1389 a party who is an individual, is subject to the personal
1390 jurisdiction of the tribunal of this state and all of the
1391 parties who are individuals have filed ~~written~~ consents in a
1392 record in the issuing tribunal for a tribunal of this state to
1393 modify the support order and assume continuing exclusive
1394 jurisdiction ~~over the order. However, if the issuing state is a~~
1395 ~~foreign jurisdiction that has not enacted a law or established~~
1396 ~~procedures substantially similar to the procedures under this~~
1397 ~~act, the consent otherwise required of an individual residing in~~

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~~this state is not required for the tribunal to assume jurisdiction to modify the child support order.~~

(2) Modification of a registered child support order is subject to the same requirements, procedures, and defenses that apply to the modification of an order issued by a tribunal of this state and the order may be enforced and satisfied in the same manner.

(3) A tribunal of this state may not modify any aspect of a child support order that may not be modified under the law of the issuing state, including the duration of the obligation of support. If two or more tribunals have issued child support orders for the same obligor and same child, the order that controls and must be so recognized under s. 88.2071 establishes the aspects of the support order which are nonmodifiable.

(4) In a proceeding to modify a child support order, the law of the state that is determined to have issued the initial controlling order governs the duration of the obligation of support. The obligor's fulfillment of the duty of support established by that order precludes imposition of a further obligation of support by a tribunal of this state.

(5)-(4) On issuance of an order by a tribunal of this state modifying a child support order issued in another state, the a tribunal of this state becomes the tribunal of continuing exclusive jurisdiction.

(6) Notwithstanding subsections (1)-(5) and s. 88.2011(2), a tribunal of this state retains jurisdiction to modify an order issued by a tribunal of this state if:

(a) One party resides in another state; and

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(b) The other party resides outside the United States.

Section 54. Section 88.6121, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

88.6121 Recognition of order modified in another state.—If a child support order issued by a tribunal of this state is modified ~~shall recognize a modification of its earlier child support order~~ by a tribunal of another state which assumed jurisdiction pursuant to the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, a tribunal of this state ~~this act or a law substantially similar to this act and, upon request, except as otherwise provided in this act, shall:~~

(1) May enforce the order that was modified only as to arrears and interest ~~amounts~~ accruing before the modification.

~~(2) Enforce only nonmodifiable aspects of that order.~~

~~(2)(3)~~ May provide ~~other~~ appropriate relief ~~only~~ for violations of its ~~that~~ order which occurred before the effective date of the modification.

~~(3)(4)~~ Shall recognize the modifying order of the other state, upon registration, for the purpose of enforcement.

Section 55. Section 88.6151, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

88.6151 Jurisdiction to modify child support order of foreign country.—

(1) Except as otherwise provided in s. 88.7111, if a foreign country lacks or refuses to exercise jurisdiction to modify its child support order pursuant to its laws, a tribunal of this state may assume jurisdiction to modify the child support order and bind all individuals subject to the personal

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jurisdiction of the tribunal whether the consent to modification of a child support order otherwise required of the individual pursuant to s. 88.6111 has been given or whether the individual seeking modification is a resident of this state or of the foreign country.

(2) An order issued by a tribunal of this state modifying a foreign child support order pursuant to this section is the controlling order.

Section 56. Section 88.6161, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

88.6161 Procedure to register child support order of foreign country for modification.—A party or support enforcement agency seeking to modify, or to modify and enforce, a foreign child support order not under the convention may register that order in this state under ss. 88.6011-88.6081 if the order has not been registered. A petition for modification may be filed at the same time as a request for registration, or at another time. The petition must specify the grounds for modification.

Section 57. The Division of Statutory Revision is directed to redesignate part VII of chapter 88, Florida Statutes, as "SUPPORT PROCEEDING UNDER CONVENTION."

Section 58. Section 88.7011, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 59. Section 88.70111, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

88.70111 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

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(1) "Application" means a request under the convention by an obligee or obligor, or on behalf of a child, made through a central authority for assistance from another central authority.

(2) "Central authority" means the entity designated by the United States or a foreign country described in s. 88.1011(5)(d) to perform the functions specified in the convention.

(3) "Convention support order" means a support order of a tribunal of a foreign country described in s. 88.1011(5)(d).

(4) "Direct request" means a petition filed by an individual in a tribunal of this state in a proceeding involving an obligee, obligor, or child residing outside the United States.

(5) "Foreign central authority" means the entity designated by a foreign country described in s. 88.1011(5)(d) to perform the functions specified in the convention.

(6) "Foreign support agreement":

(a) Means an agreement for support in a record that:

1. Is enforceable as a support order in the country of origin;

2. Has been:

a. Formally drawn up or registered as an authentic instrument by a foreign tribunal; or

b. Authenticated by or concluded, registered, or filed with a foreign tribunal; and

3. May be reviewed and modified by a foreign tribunal; and

(b) Includes a maintenance arrangement or authentic instrument under the convention.

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(7) "United States central authority" means the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Section 60. Section 88.7021, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

88.7021 Applicability.—This part applies only to a support proceeding under the convention. In such a proceeding, if a provision of this part is inconsistent with parts I through VI, this part controls.

Section 61. Section 88.7031, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

88.7031 Relationship of Department of Revenue to United States central authority.—The Department of Revenue is recognized as the agency designated by the United States central authority to perform specific functions under the convention.

Section 62. Section 88.7041, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

88.7041 Initiation by Department of Revenue of support proceeding under convention.—

(1) In a support proceeding under this part, the Department of Revenue shall:

(a) Transmit and receive applications; and

(b) Initiate or facilitate the institution of a proceeding regarding an application in a tribunal of this state.

(2) The following support proceedings are available to an obligee under the convention:

(a) Recognition or recognition and enforcement of a foreign support order.

(b) Enforcement of a support order issued or recognized in

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this state.

(c) Establishment of a support order if there is no existing order, including, where necessary, determination of parentage of a child.

(d) Establishment of a support order if recognition of a foreign support order is refused under s. 88.7081(2)(b), (d), or (i).

(e) Modification of a support order of a tribunal of this state.

(f) Modification of a support order of a tribunal of another state or a foreign country.

(3) The following support proceedings are available under the convention to an obligor against whom there is an existing support order:

(a) Recognition of an order suspending or limiting enforcement of an existing support order of a tribunal of this state.

(b) Modification of a support order of a tribunal of this state.

(c) Modification of a support order of a tribunal of another state or foreign country.

(4) A tribunal of this state may not require security, bond, or deposit, however described, to guarantee the payment of costs and expenses in proceedings under the convention.

Section 63. Section 88.7051, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

88.7051 Direct request.—

(1) A petitioner may file a direct request seeking

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establishment or modification of a support order or
determination of parentage of a child. In the proceeding, the
law of this state applies.

(2) A petitioner may file a direct request in a tribunal
of this state seeking recognition and enforcement of a support
order or support agreement. In such a proceeding, the provisions
of ss. 88.7061-88.7131 apply.

(3) In a direct request for recognition and enforcement of
a convention support order or foreign support agreement:

(a) A security, bond, or deposit is not required to
guarantee the payment of costs and expenses; and

(b) An obligee or obligor that in the issuing country has
benefited from free legal assistance is entitled to benefit, at
least to the same extent, from any free legal assistance
provided for by the law of this state under the same
circumstances.

(4) An individual filing a direct request is not entitled
to assistance from the Department of Revenue.

(5) This part does not prevent the application of laws of
this state that provide simplified, more expeditious rules
regarding a direct request for recognition and enforcement of a
foreign support order or foreign support agreement.

Section 64. Section 88.7061, Florida Statutes, is created
to read:

88.7061 Registration of convention support order.—

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this part, a party who
is an individual or a support enforcement agency seeking
recognition of a convention support order shall register the

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1591 order in this state as provided in part VI of this chapter.

1592 (2) Notwithstanding ss. 88.3111 and 88.6021(1), a request
1593 for registration of a convention support order must be
1594 accompanied by the following:

1595 (a) A complete text of the support order, or an abstract
1596 or extract of the support order drawn up by the issuing foreign
1597 tribunal, which may be in the form recommended by the Hague
1598 Conference on Private International Law.

1599 (b) A record stating that the support order is enforceable
1600 in the issuing country.

1601 (c) If the respondent did not appear and was not
1602 represented in the proceedings in the issuing country, a record
1603 attesting, as appropriate, either that the respondent had proper
1604 notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard, or
1605 that the respondent had proper notice of the support order and
1606 the opportunity to be heard in a challenge or appeal on fact or
1607 law before a tribunal.

1608 (d) A record showing the amount of any arrears, and the
1609 date the amount was calculated.

1610 (e) A record showing a requirement for automatic
1611 adjustment of the amount of support, if any, and the information
1612 necessary to make the appropriate calculations, if necessary.

1613 (f) A record showing the extent to which the applicant
1614 received free legal assistance in the issuing country.

1615 (3) A request for registration of a convention support
1616 order may seek recognition and partial enforcement of the order.

1617 (4) A tribunal of this state may vacate the registration
1618 of a convention support order without the filing of a contest

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1619 under s. 88.7071 only if, acting on its own motion, the tribunal
1620 finds that recognition and enforcement of the order would be
1621 manifestly incompatible with public policy.

1622 (5) The tribunal shall promptly notify the parties of the
1623 registration or the order vacating the registration of a
1624 convention support order.

1625 Section 65. Section 88.7071, Florida Statutes, is created
1626 to read:

1627 88.7071 Contest of registered convention support order.—

1628 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this part, ss.
1629 88.6051-88.6081 apply to a contest of a registered convention
1630 support order.

1631 (2) A party contesting a registered convention support
1632 order shall file a contest not later than 30 days after notice
1633 of the registration, but if the contesting party does not reside
1634 in the United States, the contest must be filed not later than
1635 60 days after notice of the registration.

1636 (3) If the nonregistering party fails to contest the
1637 registered convention support order by the time specified in
1638 subsection (2), the order is enforceable.

1639 (4) A contest of a registered convention support order may
1640 be based only on grounds set forth in s. 88.7081. The contesting
1641 party bears the burden of proof.

1642 (5) In a contest of a registered convention support order,
1643 a tribunal of this state:

1644 (a) Is bound by the findings of fact on which the foreign
1645 tribunal based its jurisdiction; and

1646 (b) May not review the merits of the order.

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1647 (6) A tribunal of this state deciding a contest of a
1648 registered convention support order shall promptly notify the
1649 parties of its decision.

1650 (7) A challenge or appeal, if any, does not stay the
1651 enforcement of a convention support order unless there are
1652 exceptional circumstances.

1653 Section 66. Section 88.7081, Florida Statutes, is created
1654 to read:

1655 88.7081 Recognition and enforcement of convention support
1656 order.—

1657 (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2), a
1658 tribunal of this state shall recognize and enforce a registered
1659 convention support order.

1660 (2) The following grounds are the only grounds on which a
1661 tribunal of this state may refuse recognition and enforcement of
1662 a registered convention support order:

1663 (a) Recognition and enforcement of the order is manifestly
1664 incompatible with public policy, including the failure of the
1665 issuing tribunal to observe minimum standards of due process,
1666 which include notice and an opportunity to be heard;

1667 (b) The issuing tribunal lacked personal jurisdiction
1668 consistent with s. 88.2011;

1669 (c) The order is not enforceable in the issuing country;

1670 (d) The order was obtained by fraud in connection with a
1671 matter of procedure;

1672 (e) A record transmitted in accordance with s. 88.7061
1673 lacks authenticity or integrity;

1674 (f) A proceeding between the same parties and having the

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1675 same purpose is pending before a tribunal of this state and that
1676 proceeding was the first to be filed;

1677 (g) The order is incompatible with a more recent support
1678 order involving the same parties and having the same purpose if
1679 the more recent support order is entitled to recognition and
1680 enforcement under this act in this state;

1681 (h) Payment, to the extent alleged arrears have been paid
1682 in whole or in part;

1683 (i) In a case in which the respondent neither appeared nor
1684 was represented in the proceeding in the issuing foreign
1685 country:

1686 1. If the law of that country provides for prior notice of
1687 proceedings, the respondent did not have proper notice of the
1688 proceedings and an opportunity to be heard; or

1689 2. If the law of that country does not provide for prior
1690 notice of the proceedings, the respondent did not have proper
1691 notice of the order and an opportunity to be heard in a
1692 challenge or appeal on fact or law before a tribunal; or

1693 (j) The order was made in violation of s. 88.7111.

1694 (3) If a tribunal of this state does not recognize a
1695 convention support order under paragraph (2) (b), (d), (f), or
1696 (i):

1697 (a) The tribunal may not dismiss the proceeding without
1698 allowing a reasonable time for a party to request the
1699 establishment of a new convention support order; and

1700 (b) The Department of Revenue shall take all appropriate
1701 measures to request a child support order for the obligee if the
1702 application for recognition and enforcement was received under

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s. 88.7041.

Section 67. Section 88.7091, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

88.7091 Partial enforcement.—If a tribunal of this state does not recognize and enforce a convention support order in its entirety, it shall enforce any severable part of the order. An application or direct request may seek recognition and partial enforcement of a convention support order.

Section 68. Section 88.7101, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

88.7101 Foreign support agreement.—

(1) Except as provided in subsections (3) and (4), a tribunal of this state shall recognize and enforce a foreign support agreement registered in this state.

(2) An application or direct request for recognition and enforcement of a foreign support agreement must be accompanied by:

(a) A complete text of the foreign support agreement; and

(b) A record stating that the foreign support agreement is enforceable as an order of support in the issuing country.

(3) A tribunal of this state may vacate the registration of a foreign support agreement only if, acting on its own motion, the tribunal finds that recognition and enforcement would be manifestly incompatible with public policy.

(4) In a contest of a foreign support agreement, a tribunal of this state may refuse recognition and enforcement of the agreement if it finds:

(a) Recognition and enforcement of the agreement is

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manifestly incompatible with public policy;

(b) The agreement was obtained by fraud or falsification;

(c) The agreement is incompatible with a support order issued between the same parties and having the same purpose in this state, another state, or a foreign country if the support order is entitled to recognition in this state; or

(d) The record submitted under subsection (2) lacks authenticity or integrity.

(5) A proceeding for recognition and enforcement of a foreign support agreement must be suspended during the pendency of a challenge to or appeal of the agreement before a tribunal of another state or a foreign country.

Section 69. Section 88.7111, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

88.7111 Modification of convention child support order.—

(1) A tribunal of this state may not modify a convention child support order if the obligee remains a resident of the foreign country where the support order was issued unless:

(a) The obligee submits to the jurisdiction of a tribunal of this state, either expressly or by defending on the merits of the case without objecting to the jurisdiction at the first available opportunity; or

(b) The foreign tribunal lacks or refuses to exercise jurisdiction to modify its support order or issue a new support order.

(2) If a tribunal of this state does not modify a convention child support order because the order is not recognized in this state, the provisions of s. 88.7081(3) apply.

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Section 70. Section 88.7121, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

88.7121 Personal information; limit on use.—Personal information gathered or transmitted under this part may be used only for the purposes for which it was gathered or transmitted.

Section 71. Section 88.7131, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

88.7131 Record in original language; English translation.—A record filed with a tribunal of this state under this part must be in the original language and, if not in English, must be accompanied by an English translation.

Section 72. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 88.8011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

88.8011 Grounds for rendition.—

(2) The Governor of this state may:

(b) On the demand of ~~by~~ the Governor of another state, surrender an individual found in this state who is charged criminally in the other state with having failed to provide for the support of an obligee.

Section 73. Section 88.9011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

88.9011 Uniformity of application and construction.—In applying and construing this uniform act, consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity of ~~This act shall be applied and construed to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law with respect to its the subject matter of this act among states that enact enacting it.~~

Section 74. Section 88.9021, Florida Statutes, is created

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1787 to read:

1788 88.9021 Transitional provision.—This act applies to
1789 proceedings begun on or after the effective date of this act to
1790 establish a support order or determine parentage of a child or
1791 to register, recognize, enforce, or modify a prior support
1792 order, determination, or agreement, whenever issued or entered.

1793 Section 75. Section 88.9031, Florida Statutes, is amended
1794 to read:

1795 88.9031 Severability ~~clause~~.—If any provision of this act
1796 or its application to any person or circumstance is held
1797 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or
1798 applications of this act which can be given effect without the
1799 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions
1800 of this act are severable.

1801 Section 76. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section
1802 61.13, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1803 61.13 Support of children; parenting and time-sharing;
1804 powers of court.—

1805 (7)(a) Each party to any paternity or support proceeding
1806 is required to file with the tribunal as defined in s.
1807 ~~88.1011(22)~~ and State Case Registry upon entry of an order, and
1808 to update as appropriate, information on location and identity
1809 of the party, including social security number, residential and
1810 mailing addresses, telephone number, driver's license number,
1811 and name, address, and telephone number of employer. Each party
1812 to any paternity or child support proceeding in a non-Title IV-D
1813 case shall meet the above requirements for updating the tribunal
1814 and State Case Registry.

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Section 77. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section 827.06, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

827.06 Nonsupport of dependents.—

(5)

(b) The element of knowledge may be proven by evidence that a court or tribunal as defined by s. 88.1011~~(22)~~ has entered an order that obligates the defendant to provide the support.

Section 78. Upon the passage of this bill, the Department of Revenue is directed to apply for a waiver from the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement pursuant to the state plan requirement under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act.

Section 79. Effective July 1, 2011, subsection (9) of section 61.08, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (10), a new subsection (9) is added to that section, and subsections (2), (7), and (8) of that section are amended, to read:

61.08 Alimony.—

(2) In determining whether to award alimony or maintenance, the court shall first make a specific factual determination as to whether either party has an actual need for alimony or maintenance and whether either party has the ability to pay alimony or maintenance. If the court finds that a party has a need for alimony or maintenance and that the other party has the ability to pay alimony or maintenance, then in determining the proper type and amount of alimony or maintenance under subsections (5)-(8), the court shall consider all relevant factors, including, but not limited to:

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1843 (a) The standard of living established during the
1844 marriage.

1845 (b) The duration of the marriage.

1846 (c) The age and the physical and emotional condition of
1847 each party.

1848 (d) The financial resources of each party, including the
1849 nonmarital and the marital assets and liabilities distributed to
1850 each.

1851 (e) The earning capacities, educational levels, vocational
1852 skills, and employability of the parties and, when applicable,
1853 the time necessary for either party to acquire sufficient
1854 education or training to enable such party to find appropriate
1855 employment.

1856 (f) The contribution of each party to the marriage,
1857 including, but not limited to, services rendered in homemaking,
1858 child care, education, and career building of the other party.

1859 (g) The responsibilities each party will have with regard
1860 to any minor children they have in common.

1861 (h) The tax treatment and consequences to both parties of
1862 any alimony award, including the designation of all or a portion
1863 of the payment as a nontaxable, nondeductible payment.

1864 (i) All sources of income available to either party,
1865 including income available to either party through investments
1866 of any asset held by that party.

1867 (j) Any other factor necessary to do equity and justice
1868 between the parties.

1869 (7) Durational alimony may be awarded when permanent
1870 periodic alimony is inappropriate. The purpose of durational

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1871 alimony is to provide a party with economic assistance for a set
1872 period of time following a marriage of short or moderate
1873 duration or following a marriage of long duration if there is no
1874 ongoing need for support on a permanent basis. An award of
1875 durational alimony terminates upon the death of either party or
1876 upon the remarriage of the party receiving alimony. The amount
1877 of an award of durational alimony may be modified or terminated
1878 based upon a substantial change in circumstances in accordance
1879 with s. 61.14. However, the length of an award of durational
1880 alimony may not be modified except under exceptional
1881 circumstances and may not exceed the length of the marriage.

1882 (8) Permanent alimony may be awarded to provide for the
1883 needs and necessities of life as they were established during
1884 the marriage of the parties for a party who lacks the financial
1885 ability to meet his or her needs and necessities of life
1886 following a dissolution of marriage. Permanent alimony may be
1887 awarded following a marriage of long duration if such an award
1888 is appropriate upon consideration of the factors set forth in
1889 subsection (2), following a marriage of moderate duration if
1890 such an award is appropriate based upon clear and convincing
1891 evidence after consideration of the factors set forth in
1892 subsection (2), or following a marriage of short duration if
1893 there are written findings of exceptional circumstances. In
1894 awarding permanent alimony, the court shall include a finding
1895 that no other form of alimony is fair and reasonable under the
1896 circumstances of the parties. An award of permanent alimony
1897 terminates upon the death of either party or upon the remarriage
1898 of the party receiving alimony. An award may be modified or

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terminated based upon a substantial change in circumstances or upon the existence of a supportive relationship in accordance with s. 61.14.

(9) The award of alimony may not leave the payor with significantly less net income than the net income of the recipient unless there are written findings of exceptional circumstances.

Section 80. Effective July 1, 2011, the amendments to s. 61.08, Florida Statutes, made by this act apply to all initial awards of alimony entered after July 1, 2011, and to all modifications of alimony of such awards made after July 1, 2011. Such amendments may not serve as a basis to modify awards entered before July 1, 2011, or as a basis to change amounts or duration of awards existing before July 1, 2011. The amendments to s. 61.08, Florida Statutes, made by this act are applicable to all cases pending on or filed after July 1, 2011.

Section 81. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect upon the earlier of 90 days following Congress amending 42 U.S.C. s. 666(f) to allow or require states to adopt the 2008 version of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, or 90 days following the state obtaining a waiver of its state plan requirement under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act.