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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to alimony; amending s. 61.08, F.S.;
3 revising provisions relating to factors to be considered
4 for alimony awards; revising provisions relating to awards
5 of permanent alimony; providing that an alimony award may
6 not result in the party receiving the award enjoying a
7 standard of living that is greater than that of the party
8 paying alimony unless there are written findings of
9 exceptional circumstances; providing applicability for
10 amendments by the act; revising provisions relating to
11 applicability of certain amendments made in ch. 2010-199,
12 Laws of Florida, to delete language declaring those
13 amendments inapplicable to modification of awards made
14 before the effective date of that act and applying those
15 amendments to modifications of such awards; providing for
16 retroactive effect; providing effective dates.

17
18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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20 Section 1. Subsection (9) of section 61.08, Florida
21 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (10), a new subsection (9)
22 is added to that section, and subsections (2), (7), and (8) of
23 that section are amended, to read:

24 61.08 Alimony.—

25 (2) In determining whether to award alimony or
26 maintenance, the court shall first make a specific factual
27 determination as to whether either party has an actual need for
28 alimony or maintenance and whether either party has the ability

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29 to pay alimony or maintenance. If the court finds that a party
30 has a need for alimony or maintenance and that the other party
31 has the ability to pay alimony or maintenance, then in
32 determining the proper type and amount of alimony or maintenance
33 under subsections (5)-(8), the court shall consider all relevant
34 factors, including, but not limited to:

35 (a) The standard of living established during the
36 marriage.

37 (b) The duration of the marriage.

38 (c) The age and the physical and emotional condition of
39 each party.

40 (d) The financial resources of each party, including the
41 nonmarital and the marital assets and liabilities distributed to
42 each.

43 (e) The earning capacities, educational levels, vocational
44 skills, and employability of the parties and, when applicable,
45 the time necessary for either party to acquire sufficient
46 education or training to enable such party to find appropriate
47 employment.

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

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

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

56 (i) All sources of income available to either party,

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57 including income available to either party through investments
58 of any asset held by that party.

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

61 (7) Durational alimony may be awarded when permanent
62 periodic alimony is inappropriate. The purpose of durational
63 alimony is to provide a party with economic assistance for a set
64 period of time ~~following a marriage of short or moderate~~
65 ~~duration~~. An award of durational alimony terminates upon the
66 death of either party or upon the remarriage of the party
67 receiving alimony. The amount of an award of durational alimony
68 may be modified or terminated based upon a substantial change in
69 circumstances in accordance with s. 61.14. However, the length
70 of an award of durational alimony may not be modified except
71 under exceptional circumstances and may not exceed the length of
72 the marriage.

73 (8) Permanent alimony may be awarded to provide for the
74 needs and necessities of life as they were established during
75 the marriage of the parties for a party who lacks the financial
76 ability to meet his or her needs and necessities of life
77 following a dissolution of marriage. Permanent alimony may be
78 awarded following a marriage of moderate or long duration,
79 ~~following a marriage of moderate duration~~ if such an award is
80 appropriate upon consideration of the factors set forth in
81 subsection (2), or following a marriage of short duration if
82 there are written findings of exceptional circumstances. In
83 awarding permanent alimony, the court shall include findings
84 regarding the applicability of the needs and necessities of life

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85 established during the marriage to the alimony award and shall
86 include findings that no other form of alimony, including, but
87 not limited to, durational alimony, is adequate. An award of
88 permanent alimony terminates upon the death of either party or
89 upon the remarriage of the party receiving alimony. An award may
90 be modified or terminated based upon a substantial change in
91 circumstances or upon the existence of a supportive relationship
92 in accordance with s. 61.14.

93 (9) An alimony award may not result in the party receiving
94 the award enjoying a standard of living that is greater than
95 that of the party paying alimony unless there are written
96 findings of exceptional circumstances.

97 Section 2. The amendments to s. 61.08, Florida Statutes,
98 by this act apply to all initial awards of alimony entered on or
99 after July 1, 2011, and to all modifications of alimony awards
100 for marriages of short or moderate duration made on or after
101 July 1, 2011.

102 Section 3. Effective upon this act becoming a law and
103 retroactive to July 1, 2010, section 2 of chapter 2010-199, Laws
104 of Florida, is amended to read:

105 Section 2. The amendments to s. 61.08, Florida Statutes,
106 by this act apply to all initial awards of alimony entered after
107 July 1, 2010, and to all modifications of alimony such awards
108 made after July 1, 2010. Such amendments may not serve as a
109 basis to modify awards entered before July 1, 2010, or as a
110 basis to change amounts or duration of awards existing before
111 July 1, 2010. The amendments to s. 61.08, Florida Statutes, by
112 this act are applicable to all cases pending on or filed after

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113 ~~July 1, 2010.~~

114 Section 4. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
115 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon
116 this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1,
117 2011.