

By: Harris

S.B. No. 228

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 relating to suits affecting the parent-child relationship,
2 including proceedings for the establishment, modification, and
3 enforcement of child support; providing a civil penalty.
4

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 101, Family Code, is amended by adding
7 Section 101.0255 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 101.0255. RECORD. "Record" means information that is:

9 (1) inscribed on a tangible medium or stored in an
10 electronic or other medium; and

11 (2) retrievable in a perceivable form.

12 SECTION 2. Subsection (d), Section 102.009, Family Code, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 (d) If the petition requests the establishment,
15 termination, modification, or enforcement of a support right
16 assigned to the Title IV-D agency under Chapter 231 or the
17 rescission of a voluntary acknowledgment of paternity under Chapter
18 160, notice shall be given to the Title IV-D agency in a manner
19 provided by Rule 21a, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

20 SECTION 3. Subsection (b), Section 151.001, Family Code, is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 (b) The duty of a parent to support his or her child exists
23 while the child is an unemancipated minor and continues as long as
24 the child is fully enrolled in a an [~~an accredited~~] secondary school in

1 a program leading toward a high school diploma and complies with
2 attendance requirements described by Section 154.002(a)(2) [~~until~~
3 ~~the end of the school year in which the child graduates~~].

4 SECTION 4. Subsection (c), Section 155.301, Family Code, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 (c) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, if [~~If~~]
7 a transfer of continuing, exclusive jurisdiction is sought under
8 this section, the procedures for determining and effecting a
9 transfer of proceedings provided by this chapter apply. If the
10 parties submit to the court an agreed order for transfer, the court
11 shall sign the order without the need for other pleadings.

12 SECTION 5. Subsection (b), Section 156.401, Family Code, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 (b) A support order may be modified with regard to the
15 amount of support ordered only as to obligations accruing after the
16 earlier of:

17 (1) the date of service of citation; or

18 (2) an appearance in the suit to modify.

19 SECTION 6. Section 156.409, Family Code, is amended by
20 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (a-1) and (a-2) to
21 read as follows:

22 (a) The [~~If the sole managing conservator of a child or the~~
23 ~~joint managing conservator who has the exclusive right to determine~~
24 ~~the primary residence of the child has voluntarily relinquished the~~
25 ~~primary care and possession of the child to another person for at~~
26 ~~least six months, the~~] court shall, on the motion of a party or a
27 [~~the other~~] person having physical possession of the child, modify

1 an order providing for the support of the child to provide that the
2 [~~other~~] person having physical possession of the child for at least
3 six months shall have the right to receive and give receipt for
4 payments of support for the child and to hold or disburse money for
5 the benefit of the child if the sole managing conservator of the
6 child or the joint managing conservator who has the exclusive right
7 to determine the primary residence of the child has:

8 (1) voluntarily relinquished the primary care and
9 possession of the child;

10 (2) been incarcerated or sentenced to be incarcerated
11 for at least 90 days; or

12 (3) relinquished the primary care and possession of
13 the child in a proceeding under Title 3 or Chapter 262.

14 (a-1) If the court modifies a support order under this
15 section, the court shall order the obligor to pay the person or
16 entity having physical possession of the child any unpaid child
17 support that is not subject to offset or reimbursement under
18 Section 157.008 and that accrues after the date the sole or joint
19 managing conservator:

20 (1) relinquishes possession and control of the child,
21 whether voluntarily or in a proceeding under Title 3 or Chapter 262;
22 or

23 (2) is incarcerated.

24 (a-2) This section does not affect the ability of the court
25 to render a temporary order for the payment of child support that is
26 in the best interest of the child.

27 SECTION 7. Subsection (a), Section 157.005, Family Code, is

1 amended to read as follows:

2 (a) The court retains jurisdiction to render a contempt
3 order for failure to comply with the child support order if the
4 motion for enforcement is filed not later than the second
5 anniversary of [~~sixth month after~~] the date:

6 (1) the child becomes an adult; or

7 (2) on which the child support obligation terminates
8 under the order or by operation of law.

9 SECTION 8. Subsection (a), Section 157.065, Family Code, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 (a) If a party has been ordered under Chapter 105 to provide
12 the court and the state case registry with the party's current
13 mailing address, notice of a hearing on a motion for enforcement may
14 be served by mailing a copy of the notice to the respondent,
15 together with a copy of the motion, by first class mail to the last
16 mailing address of the respondent on file with the court and the
17 registry.

18 SECTION 9. Subsections (a) and (c), Section 157.105, Family
19 Code, are amended to read as follows:

20 (a) If the respondent is taken into custody and not released
21 on bond, the respondent shall be brought before the court that
22 issued the capias on or before the third [~~first~~] working day after
23 the arrest. The court shall determine whether the respondent's
24 appearance in court at a designated time and place can be assured by
25 a method other than by posting the bond or security previously
26 established.

27 (c) If the court is not satisfied that the respondent's

1 appearance in court can be assured and the respondent remains in
2 custody, a hearing on the alleged contempt shall be held as soon as
3 practicable, but not later than the seventh [~~fifth~~] day after the
4 date that the respondent was taken into custody, unless the
5 respondent and the respondent's attorney waive the accelerated
6 hearing.

7 SECTION 10. Section 157.211, Family Code, is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 Sec. 157.211. CONDITIONS OF COMMUNITY SUPERVISION. If the
10 court places the respondent on community supervision [~~and suspends~~
11 ~~commitment~~], the terms and conditions of community supervision may
12 include the requirement that the respondent:

13 (1) report to the community supervision officer as
14 directed;

15 (2) permit the community supervision officer to visit
16 the respondent at the respondent's home or elsewhere;

17 (3) obtain counseling on financial planning, budget
18 management, conflict resolution, parenting skills, alcohol or drug
19 abuse, or other matters causing the respondent to fail to obey the
20 order;

21 (4) pay required child support and any child support
22 arrearages;

23 (5) pay court costs and attorney's fees ordered by the
24 court;

25 (6) seek employment assistance services offered by the
26 Texas Workforce Commission under Section 302.0035, Labor Code, if
27 appropriate; [~~and~~]

1 (7) participate in mediation or other services to
2 alleviate conditions that prevent the respondent from obeying the
3 court's order; and

4 (8) submit to a period of confinement in a county jail
5 beginning at any time during the community supervision period,
6 except that the aggregate of all periods of confinement during the
7 community supervision period may not exceed 180 days.

8 SECTION 11. Section 157.212, Family Code, is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 Sec. 157.212. TERM OF COMMUNITY SUPERVISION. The initial
11 period of community supervision [period] may not exceed 10 years.
12 The court may continue the community supervision beyond 10 years
13 until the earlier of:

14 (1) the second anniversary of the date on which the
15 community supervision first exceeded 10 years; or

16 (2) the date on which all child support, including
17 arrearages and interest, has been paid.

18 SECTION 12. Subsections (a) and (b), Section 157.216,
19 Family Code, are amended to read as follows:

20 (a) The court shall hold a hearing without a jury not later
21 than [on or before] the third [first] working day after the date the
22 respondent is arrested under Section 157.215. If the court is
23 unavailable for a hearing on that date, the hearing shall be held
24 not later than the third [first] working day after the date the
25 court becomes available.

26 (b) The hearing under this section may not be held later
27 than the seventh [third] working day after the date the respondent

1 is arrested.

2 SECTION 13. Subsection (c), Section 157.263, Family Code,
3 is amended to read as follows:

4 (c) If the amount of arrearages confirmed by the court
5 reflects a credit to the obligor for support arrearages collected
6 from a federal tax refund under 42 U.S.C. Section 664, ~~[as amended,~~
7 and, subsequently, the amount of that credit is reduced because the
8 refund was adjusted because of an injured spouse claim by a jointly
9 filing spouse, the tax return was amended, the return was audited by
10 the Internal Revenue Service, or for another reason permitted by
11 law ~~[based on a joint return under which another person was entitled~~
12 ~~to a share of the refund under 42 U.S.C. Section 664, as amended],~~
13 the court shall render a new cumulative judgment to include as
14 arrearages an amount equal to the amount by which the credit was
15 reduced.

16 SECTION 14. Subsection (b), Section 157.264, Family Code,
17 is amended to read as follows:

18 (b) The court shall ~~[may]~~ render an order requiring~~[-~~
19 ~~[(1) that income be withheld from the disposable~~
20 ~~earnings of the obligor in an amount sufficient to discharge the~~
21 ~~judgment in not more than two years, or~~
22 ~~[(2) if the obligor is not subject to income~~
23 ~~withholding,~~] that the obligor make periodic payments on the
24 judgment, including by income withholding under Chapter 158 if the
25 obligor is subject to income withholding ~~[to the obligee in an~~
26 ~~amount sufficient to discharge the judgment within a reasonable~~
27 ~~time].~~

1 SECTION 15. Section 157.269, Family Code, is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 Sec. 157.269. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION. A court that
4 renders an order providing for the payment of child support
5 [~~arrearages~~] retains continuing jurisdiction to enforce the order,
6 including by adjusting the amount of the periodic payments to be
7 made by the obligor or the amount to be withheld from the obligor's
8 disposable earnings, until all current support and medical support
9 and child support arrearages, including interest and any applicable
10 fees and costs, have been paid.

11 SECTION 16. Subsections (a), (c), and (e), Section 157.313,
12 Family Code, are amended to read as follows:

13 (a) Except as provided by Subsection (e), a child support
14 lien notice must contain:

15 (1) the name and address of the person to whom the
16 notice is being sent;

17 (2) the style, docket or cause number, and identity of
18 the tribunal of this or another state having continuing
19 jurisdiction of the child support action and, if the case is a Title
20 IV-D case, the case number;

21 (3) the full name, address, and, if known, the birth
22 date, driver's license number, social security number, and any
23 aliases of the obligor;

24 (4) the full name and, if known, social security
25 number of the obligee;

26 (5) the amount of the current or prospective child
27 support obligation, the frequency with which current or prospective

1 child support is ordered to be paid, and the amount of child support
2 arrearages owed by the obligor and the date of the signing of the
3 court order, administrative order, or writ that determined the
4 arrearages or the date and manner in which the arrearages were
5 determined;

6 (6) the rate of interest specified in the court order,
7 administrative order, or writ or, in the absence of a specified
8 interest rate, the rate provided for by law;

9 (7) the name and address of the person or agency
10 asserting the lien;

11 (8) the motor vehicle identification number as shown
12 on the obligor's title if the property is a motor vehicle;

13 (9) a statement that the lien attaches to all
14 nonexempt real and personal property of the obligor that is located
15 or recorded in the state, including any property specifically
16 identified in the notice and any property acquired after the date of
17 filing or delivery of the notice;

18 (10) a statement that any ordered child support not
19 timely paid in the future constitutes a final judgment for the
20 amount due and owing, including interest, and accrues up to an
21 amount that may not exceed the lien amount; and

22 (11) a statement that the obligor is being provided a
23 copy of the lien notice and that the obligor may dispute the
24 arrearage amount by filing suit under Section 157.323.

25 (c) Except as provided by Subsection (e), the ~~The~~ lien
26 notice must be verified.

27 (e) A notice of a lien for child support under this section

1 may be in the form authorized by federal law or regulation. The
2 federal form of lien notice does not require verification when used
3 by the Title IV-D agency.

4 SECTION 17. Subsection (a-1), Section 157.317, Family Code,
5 is amended to read as follows:

6 (a-1) A lien attaches to all property owned or acquired on
7 or after the date the lien notice or abstract of judgment is filed
8 with the county clerk of the county in which the property is
9 located, with the court clerk as to property or claims in
10 litigation, or, as to property of the obligor in the possession or
11 control of a third party, from the date the lien notice is delivered
12 to [filed with] that party.

13 SECTION 18. Subchapter C, Chapter 158, Family Code, is
14 amended by adding Section 158.214 to read as follows:

15 Sec. 158.214. WITHHOLDING FROM SEVERANCE PAY. (a) In this
16 section, "severance pay" means income paid on termination of
17 employment in addition to the employee's usual earnings from the
18 employer at the time of termination.

19 (b) An employer receiving an order or writ of withholding
20 under this chapter shall withhold from any severance pay owed an
21 obligor an amount equal to the amount the employer would have
22 withheld under the order or writ if the severance pay had been paid
23 as the obligor's usual earnings as a current employee.

24 (c) The total amount that may be withheld under this section
25 is subject to the maximum amount allowed to be withheld under
26 Section 158.009.

27 SECTION 19. Subdivision (23), Section 159.102, Family Code,

1 is amended to read as follows:

2 (23) "Support order" means a judgment, decree, [~~or~~]
3 order, or directive, whether temporary, final, or subject to
4 modification, issued by a tribunal for the benefit of a child, a
5 spouse, or a former spouse that provides for monetary support,
6 health care, arrearages, or reimbursement and may include related
7 costs and fees, interest, income withholding, attorney's fees, and
8 other relief.

9 SECTION 20. Section 161.206, Family Code, is amended by
10 adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

11 (d) An order rendered under this section must include a
12 finding that:

13 (1) a request for identification of a court of
14 continuing, exclusive jurisdiction has been made as required by
15 Section 155.101; and

16 (2) all parties entitled to notice, including the
17 Title IV-D agency, have been notified.

18 SECTION 21. Section 231.202, Family Code, is amended to
19 read as follows:

20 Sec. 231.202. AUTHORIZED COSTS AND FEES IN TITLE IV-D
21 CASES. In a Title IV-D case filed under this title, including a
22 case filed under Chapter 159, the Title IV-D agency shall pay:

23 (1) filing fees and fees for issuance and service of
24 process as provided by Chapter 110 of this code and by Sections
25 51.317, 51.318(b)(2), and 51.319(2), Government Code;

26 (2) fees for transfer as provided by Chapter 110;

27 (3) fees for the issuance and delivery of orders and

1 writs of income withholding in the amounts provided by Chapter 110;

2 (4) the fee that sheriffs and constables are
3 authorized to charge for serving process under Section 118.131,
4 Local Government Code, for each item of process to each individual
5 on whom service is required, including service by certified or
6 registered mail, to be paid to a sheriff, constable, or clerk
7 whenever service of process is required; ~~and~~

8 (5) the fee for filing an administrative writ of
9 withholding under Section 158.503(d); and

10 (6) the fee for issuance of a subpoena as provided by
11 Section 51.318(b)(1), Government Code.

12 SECTION 22. Subdivisions (1), (2), and (3), Section
13 232.001, Family Code, are amended to read as follows:

14 (1) "License" means a license, certificate,
15 registration, permit, or other authorization that:

16 (A) is issued by a licensing authority;

17 (B) is subject before expiration to renewal,
18 suspension, revocation, forfeiture, or termination by a ~~the~~
19 ~~issuing~~ licensing authority; and

20 (C) a person must obtain to:

21 (i) practice or engage in a particular
22 business, occupation, or profession;

23 (ii) operate a motor vehicle on a public
24 highway in this state; or

25 (iii) engage in any other regulated
26 activity, including hunting, fishing, or other recreational
27 activity for which a license or permit is required.

1 (2) "Licensing authority" means a department,
2 commission, board, office, or other agency of the state or a
3 political subdivision of the state that issues or renews a license
4 or that otherwise has authority to suspend or refuse to renew a
5 license.

6 (3) "Order suspending license" means an order issued
7 by the Title IV-D agency or a court directing a licensing authority
8 to suspend or refuse to renew a license.

9 SECTION 23. Section 232.002, Family Code, is amended to
10 read as follows:

11 Sec. 232.002. LICENSING AUTHORITIES SUBJECT TO CHAPTER.
12 Unless otherwise restricted or exempted, all [~~The following are~~]
13 licensing authorities are subject to this chapter [~~+~~

- 14 ~~[(1) Department of Agriculture,~~
- 15 ~~[(2) Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission,~~
- 16 ~~[(3) Texas Appraiser Licensing and Certification~~
17 ~~Board,~~
- 18 ~~[(4) Texas Board of Architectural Examiners,~~
- 19 ~~[(5) Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners,~~
- 20 ~~[(6) Comptroller of Public Accounts,~~
- 21 ~~[(7) Court Reporters Certification Board,~~
- 22 ~~[(8) State Board of Dental Examiners,~~
- 23 ~~[(9) Texas State Board of Examiners of Dietitians,~~
- 24 ~~[(10) Texas Funeral Service Commission,~~
- 25 ~~[(11) Department of State Health Services,~~
- 26 ~~[(12) Department of Aging and Disability Services,~~
- 27 ~~[(13) Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying,~~

- 1 ~~[(14) Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation,~~
- 2 ~~[(15) Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and~~
- 3 ~~Family Therapists,~~
- 4 ~~[(16) Texas State Board of Medical Examiners,~~
- 5 ~~[(17) Midwifery Board,~~
- 6 ~~[(18) Texas Commission on Environmental Quality,~~
- 7 ~~[(19) Board of Nurse Examiners,~~
- 8 ~~[(20) Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners,~~
- 9 ~~[(21) Texas Optometry Board,~~
- 10 ~~[(22) Parks and Wildlife Department,~~
- 11 ~~[(23) Texas State Board of Examiners of Perfusionists,~~
- 12 ~~[(24) Texas State Board of Pharmacy,~~
- 13 ~~[(25) Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners,~~
- 14 ~~[(26) Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners,~~
- 15 ~~[(27) Texas State Board of Podiatric Medical~~
- 16 ~~Examiners,~~
- 17 ~~[(28) Polygraph Examiners Board,~~
- 18 ~~[(29) Texas Private Security Board,~~
- 19 ~~[(30) Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional~~
- 20 ~~Counselors,~~
- 21 ~~[(31) Texas Board of Professional Engineers,~~
- 22 ~~[(32) Department of Family and Protective Services,~~
- 23 ~~[(33) Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists,~~
- 24 ~~[(34) Texas State Board of Public Accountancy,~~
- 25 ~~[(35) Department of Public Safety of the State of~~
- 26 ~~Texas,~~
- 27 ~~[(36) Public Utility Commission of Texas,~~

1 ~~[(37) Railroad Commission of Texas,~~
2 ~~[(38) Texas Real Estate Commission,~~
3 ~~[(39) State Bar of Texas,~~
4 ~~[(40) Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners,~~
5 ~~[(41) State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language~~
6 ~~Pathology and Audiology,~~
7 ~~[(42) Texas Structural Pest Control Board,~~
8 ~~[(43) Board of Tax Professional Examiners,~~
9 ~~[(44) Secretary of State,~~
10 ~~[(45) Supreme Court of Texas,~~
11 ~~[(46) Texas Transportation Commission,~~
12 ~~[(47) State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners,~~
13 ~~[(48) Texas Ethics Commission,~~
14 ~~[(49) Advisory Board of Athletic Trainers,~~
15 ~~[(50) State Committee of Examiners in the Fitting and~~
16 ~~Dispensing of Hearing Instruments,~~
17 ~~[(51) Texas Board of Licensure for Professional~~
18 ~~Medical Physicists,~~
19 ~~[(52) Texas Department of Insurance,~~
20 ~~[(53) Texas Board of Orthotics and Prosthetics,~~
21 ~~[(54) savings and loan commissioner,~~
22 ~~[(55) Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, and~~
23 ~~[(56) Texas Lottery Commission under Chapter 466,~~
24 ~~Government Code].~~

25 SECTION 24. Chapter 232, Family Code, is amended by adding
26 Section 232.0022 to read as follows:

27 Sec. 232.0022. SUSPENSION OF MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION.

1 The Texas Department of Transportation is the appropriate licensing
2 authority for suspension of a motor vehicle registration under this
3 chapter. The general registration provisions of Chapter 502,
4 Transportation Code, do not apply to the suspension or denial of a
5 renewal of a motor vehicle registration under this chapter.

6 SECTION 25. Subsection (a), Section 232.004, Family Code,
7 is amended to read as follows:

8 (a) A child support agency or obligee may file a petition to
9 suspend, as provided by this chapter, a license of an obligor who
10 has an arrearage equal to or greater than the total support due for
11 three months [90 days] under a support order.

12 SECTION 26. Subsections (b) and (c), Section 232.006,
13 Family Code, are amended to read as follows:

14 (b) Notice under this section may be served:

15 (1) if the party has been ordered under Chapter 105 to
16 provide the court and registry with the party's current mailing
17 address, by mailing a copy of the notice to the respondent, together
18 with a copy of the petition, by first class mail to the last mailing
19 address of the respondent on file with the court and the state case
20 registry; or

21 (2) as in civil cases generally.

22 (c) The notice must contain the following prominently
23 displayed statement in boldfaced type, capital letters, or
24 underlined:

25 "AN ACTION TO SUSPEND ONE OR MORE LICENSES ISSUED TO YOU HAS
26 BEEN FILED AS PROVIDED BY CHAPTER 232, TEXAS FAMILY CODE. YOU MAY
27 EMPLOY AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT YOU IN THIS ACTION. IF YOU OR YOUR

1 ATTORNEY DO NOT REQUEST A HEARING BEFORE THE 21ST DAY AFTER THE DATE
2 OF SERVICE OF THIS NOTICE, AN ORDER SUSPENDING YOUR [~~OF~~] LICENSE
3 [~~SUSPENSION~~] MAY BE RENDERED."

4 SECTION 27. Chapter 232, Family Code, is amended by adding
5 Section 232.0135 to read as follows:

6 Sec. 232.0135. DENIAL OF LICENSE RENEWAL. (a) The Title
7 IV-D agency may provide notice to a licensing authority concerning
8 an obligor who has failed to pay child support for six months or
9 more that requests the authority to refuse to accept an application
10 for renewal of the license of the obligor.

11 (b) A licensing authority that receives the information
12 described by Subsection (a) shall refuse to accept an application
13 for renewal of the license of the obligor until the authority is
14 notified by the Title IV-D agency that the obligor has:

15 (1) paid all child support arrearages;

16 (2) established with the Title IV-D agency a
17 satisfactory repayment schedule or is in compliance with a court
18 order for payment of the arrearages;

19 (3) been granted an exemption from this subsection as
20 part of a court-supervised plan to improve the obligor's earnings
21 and child support payments; or

22 (4) successfully contested the denial of renewal of
23 license under Subsection (d).

24 (c) On providing a licensing authority with the notice
25 described by Subsection (a), the Title IV-D agency shall send a copy
26 to the obligor by first class mail and inform the obligor of the
27 steps the obligor must take to permit the authority to accept the

1 obligor's application for license renewal.

2 (d) An obligor receiving notice under Subsection (c) may
3 request a review by the Title IV-D agency to resolve any issue in
4 dispute regarding the identity of the obligor or the existence or
5 amount of child support arrearages. The Title IV-D agency shall
6 promptly provide an opportunity for a review, either by telephone
7 or in person, as appropriate to the circumstances. After the
8 review, if appropriate, the Title IV-D agency may notify the
9 licensing authority that it may accept the obligor's application
10 for renewal of license. If the Title IV-D agency and the obligor
11 fail to resolve any issue in dispute, the obligor, not later than
12 the 30th day after the date of receiving notice of the Title IV-D
13 agency's determination from the review, may file a motion with the
14 court to direct the Title IV-D agency to withdraw the notice under
15 Subsection (a) and request a hearing on the motion. The obligor's
16 application for license renewal may not be accepted by the
17 licensing authority until the court rules on the motion. If, after
18 a review by the Title IV-D agency or a hearing by the court, the
19 Title IV-D agency withdraws the notice under Subsection (a), the
20 Title IV-D agency shall reimburse the obligor the amount of any fee
21 charged the obligor under Section 232.014.

22 (e) If an obligor enters into a repayment agreement with the
23 Title IV-D agency under this section, the Title IV-D agency may
24 incorporate the agreement in an order to be filed with and confirmed
25 by the court in the manner provided for agreed orders under Chapter
26 233.

27 (f) In this section, "licensing authority" does not include

1 the State Securities Board.

2 SECTION 28. Section 232.014, Family Code, is amended to
3 read as follows:

4 Sec. 232.014. FEE BY LICENSING AUTHORITY. (a) A licensing
5 authority may charge a fee to an individual who is the subject of an
6 order suspending license or of an action by the Title IV-D agency to
7 deny renewal of license in an amount sufficient to recover the
8 administrative costs incurred by the authority under this chapter.

9 (b) A fee collected by the Texas Department of
10 Transportation or the Department of Public Safety shall be
11 deposited to the credit of the state highway fund.

12 SECTION 29. Subsection (c), Section 234.001, Family Code,
13 is amended to read as follows:

14 (c) The state disbursement unit shall:

15 (1) receive, maintain, and furnish records of child
16 support payments in Title IV-D cases and other cases as authorized
17 by law;

18 (2) forward child support payments as authorized by
19 law;

20 (3) maintain records of child support payments
21 ~~[payment records]~~ made through the state disbursement unit; and

22 (4) make available to a local registry each day in a
23 manner determined by the Title IV-D agency ~~[with the assistance of~~
24 ~~the work group established under Section 234.003]~~ the following
25 information:

26 (A) the cause number of the suit under which
27 withholding is required;

- 1 (B) the payor's name and social security number;
- 2 (C) the payee's name and, if available, social
3 security number;
- 4 (D) the date the disbursement unit received the
5 payment;
- 6 (E) the amount of the payment; and
- 7 (F) the instrument identification information.

8 SECTION 30. Section 234.006, Family Code, is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 Sec. 234.006. RULEMAKING [~~EFFECTIVE DATE AND PROCEDURES~~].
11 The Title IV-D agency [~~, in cooperation with the work group~~
12 ~~established under Section 234.003,~~] may adopt rules in compliance
13 with federal law for the operation of the state case registry and
14 the state disbursement unit.

15 SECTION 31. Subchapter B, Chapter 234, Family Code, is
16 amended by adding Section 234.105 to read as follows:

17 Sec. 234.105. CIVIL PENALTY. (a) In addition to any other
18 remedy provided by law, an employer who knowingly violates a
19 procedure adopted under Section 234.104 for reporting employee
20 information may be liable for a civil penalty as permitted by
21 Section 453A(d) of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
22 Section 653a).

23 (b) The amount of the civil penalty may not exceed:

24 (1) \$25 for each occurrence in which an employer fails
25 to report an employee; or

26 (2) \$500 for each occurrence in which the conduct
27 described by Subdivision (1) is the result of a conspiracy between

1 the employer and an employee to not supply a required report or to
2 submit a false or incomplete report.

3 (c) The attorney general may sue to collect the civil
4 penalty. A penalty collected under this section shall be deposited
5 in a special fund in the state treasury.

6 SECTION 32. Subsections (a) and (d), Section 207.093, Labor
7 Code, are amended to read as follows:

8 (a) The commission shall withhold from the benefits payable
9 to an individual that owes a child support obligation an amount
10 equal to:

11 (1) any amount required to be withheld under legal
12 process properly served on the commission;

13 (2) if Subdivision (1) does not apply, the amount
14 determined under an agreement submitted to the commission under
15 Section 454(19)(B)(i) [~~454(20)(B)(i)~~] of the Social Security Act
16 (42 U.S.C. Section 654) by the state or local child support
17 enforcement agency; or

18 (3) if neither Subdivision (1) or (2) applies, the
19 amount the individual specifies to the commission to be withheld.

20 (d) In this section, "legal process" has the meaning
21 assigned by Section 459(i)(5) [~~462(e)~~] of the Social Security Act
22 (42 U.S.C. Section 659 [~~662~~]).

23 SECTION 33. Subdivision (9), Section 501.002,
24 Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

25 (9) "Lien" means:

26 (A) a lien provided for by the constitution or
27 statute in a motor vehicle; [~~or~~]

1 (B) a security interest, as defined by Section
2 1.201, Business & Commerce Code, in a motor vehicle, other than an
3 absolute title, created by any written security agreement, as
4 defined by Section 9.102, Business & Commerce Code, including a
5 lease, conditional sales contract, deed of trust, chattel mortgage,
6 trust receipt, or reservation of title; or

7 (C) a child support lien under Chapter 157,
8 Family Code.

9 SECTION 34. (a) The change in law made by this Act relating
10 to a court order establishing paternity or the obligation to pay
11 child support applies only to a suit affecting the parent-child
12 relationship filed on or after the effective date of this Act. A
13 suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed before the
14 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the
15 date the suit was filed, and the former law is continued in effect
16 for that purpose.

17 (b) The change in law made by this Act relating to the
18 modification or enforcement of a child support order rendered
19 before the effective date of this Act applies only to a proceeding
20 for modification or enforcement that is commenced on or after the
21 effective date of this Act. A proceeding for modification or
22 enforcement that is commenced before the effective date of this Act
23 is governed by the law in effect on the date the proceeding was
24 commenced, and the former law is continued in effect for that
25 purpose.

26 (c) The change in law made by this Act by the enactment of
27 Section 234.105, Family Code, applies only to a violation that

1 occurs on or after the effective date of this Act. A violation that
2 occurs before that date is governed by the law in effect on the date
3 the violation occurred, and the former law is continued in effect
4 for that purpose.

5 SECTION 35. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.