

A BILL

24-93

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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To enact the Uniform Family Law Arbitration Act, to offer an efficient alternative for the resolution of family law disputes, and to prescribe the necessary guidelines for the arbitration of such family law matters.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Uniform Family Law Arbitration Act of 2022”.

Sec. 2. Title 16 of the District of Columbia Official Code is amended as follows:

(a) The table of contents is amended by inserting a new chapter designation to read as follows:

“56. Uniform Family Law Arbitration Act.”.

(b) A new Chapter 56 is added to read as follows:

“Chapter 56. Uniform Family Law Arbitration Act.

“§ 16-5601. Short title.

“§ 16-5602. Definitions.

“§ 16-5603. Scope.

“§ 16-5604. Applicable law.

“§ 16-5605. Arbitration agreement.

- 27 “§ 16-5606. Notice of arbitration.
- 28 “§ 16-5607. Motion for judicial relief.
- 29 “§ 16-5608. Qualification and selection of arbitrator.
- 30 “§ 16-5609. Disclosure by arbitrator; disqualification.
- 31 “§ 16-5610. Party participation.
- 32 “§ 16-5611. Temporary order or award.
- 33 “§ 16-5612. Protection of party or child.
- 34 “§ 16-5613. Powers and duties of arbitrator.
- 35 “§ 16-5614. Recording of hearing.
- 36 “§ 16-5615. Award.
- 37 “§ 16-5616. Confirmation of award.
- 38 “§ 16-5617. Correction by arbitrator of unconfirmed award.
- 39 “§ 16-5618. Correction by Superior Court of unconfirmed award.
- 40 “§ 16-5619. Vacation or amendment by Superior Court of unconfirmed award.
- 41 “§ 16-5620. Clarification of confirmed award.
- 42 “§ 16-5621. Judgment on award.
- 43 “§ 16-5622. Modification of confirmed award or judgment.
- 44 “§ 16-5623. Enforcement of confirmed award.
- 45 “§ 16-5624. Appeal.
- 46 “§ 16-5625. Immunity of arbitrator.

47 “§ 16-5626. Uniformity of application and construction.

48 “§ 16-5627. Relation to Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act.

49 “§ 16-5628. Transitional Provision.

50 “§ 16-5601. Short title.

51 “This chapter may be cited as the Uniform Family Law Arbitration Act.

52 “§ 16-5602. Definitions.

53 “For the purposes of this chapter, the term:

54 “(1) “Arbitration agreement” means an agreement that subjects a family law dispute  
55 to arbitration.

56 “(2) “Arbitration organization” means an association, agency, board, commission,  
57 or other entity that is neutral and initiates, sponsors, or administers an arbitration or is involved in  
58 the selection of an arbitrator.

59 “(3) “Arbitrator” means an individual selected, alone or with others, to make an  
60 award in a family law dispute that is subject to an arbitration agreement.

61 “(4) “Child-related dispute” means a family law dispute regarding legal custody,  
62 physical custody, custodial responsibility, parental responsibility or authority, parenting time, right  
63 to access, visitation, or financial support regarding a child.

64 “(5) “District” means the District of Columbia.

65 “(6) “Family law dispute” means a contested issue arising under the domestic  
66 relations law of the District.

67           “(7) “Party” means an individual who signs an arbitration agreement and whose  
68 rights will be determined by an award.

69           “(8) “Person” means an individual, estate, business or nonprofit entity, public  
70 corporation, government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other  
71 legal entity.

72           “(9) “Record”, used as a noun, means information that is inscribed on a tangible  
73 medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

74           “(10) “Sign” means, with present intent to authenticate or adopt a record:

75                   “(A) To execute or adopt a tangible symbol; or

76                   “(B) To attach to or logically associate with the record an electronic symbol,  
77 sound, or process.

78           “(11) “State” means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto  
79 Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the  
80 jurisdiction of the United States.

81           “(12) “Superior Court” means the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

82           “§ 16-5603. Scope.

83           “(a) This chapter governs arbitration of a family law dispute.

84           “(b) This chapter does not authorize an arbitrator to make an award that:

85                   “(1) Grants a legal separation, divorce, or annulment;

86                   “(2) Terminates parental rights;

87                   “(3) Grants an adoption or a guardianship of a child or incapacitated individual; or

88                   “(4) Determines the status of a child in need of protection.

89                   “§ 16-5604. Applicable law.

90                   “(a) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the law applicable to arbitration is  
91 Chapter 44 of this title.

92                   “(b) In determining the merits of a family law dispute, an arbitrator shall apply the law of  
93 the District, including its choice of law rules.

94                   “§ 16-5605. Arbitration agreement.

95                   “(a) An arbitration agreement shall:

96                         “(1) Be in a record signed by the parties;

97                         “(2) Identify the arbitrator, an arbitration organization, or a method of selecting an  
98 arbitrator; and

99                         “(3) Identify the family law dispute the parties intend to arbitrate.

100                   “(b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c) of this section, an agreement in a record  
101 to arbitrate a family law dispute that arises between the parties before, at the time, or after the  
102 agreement is made is valid and enforceable as any other contract and irrevocable except on a  
103 ground that exists at law or in equity for the revocation of a contract.

104                   “(c) An agreement to arbitrate a child-related dispute that arises between the parties after  
105 the agreement is made is unenforceable unless:

106                         “(1) The parties affirm the agreement in a record after the dispute arises, or

107                   “(2) The agreement was entered during a family law proceeding and the  
108 Superior Court approved or incorporated the agreement in an order issued in the proceeding.

109                   “(d) If a party objects to arbitration on the ground the arbitration agreement is  
110 unenforceable or the agreement does not include a family law dispute, the Superior Court shall  
111 decide whether the agreement is enforceable or includes the family law dispute.

112                   “§ 16-5606. Notice of arbitration.

113                   “A party may initiate arbitration by giving notice to arbitrate to the other party in the  
114 manner specified in the arbitration agreement or, in the absence of a specified manner, under the  
115 law and procedural rules of the District other than this chapter governing contractual arbitration.

116                   “§ 16-5607. Motion for judicial relief.

117                   “(a) A motion for judicial relief under this chapter shall be made to the Superior Court.

118                   “(b) On motion of a party, the Superior Court may compel arbitration if the parties have  
119 entered into an arbitration agreement that complies with § 16-5605 unless the court determines  
120 under § 16-5612 that the arbitration should not proceed.

121                   “(c) On motion of a party, the Superior Court shall terminate arbitration if it determines  
122 that:

123                   “(1) The agreement to arbitrate is unenforceable;

124                   “(2) The family law dispute is not subject to arbitration; or

125                   “(3) Under § 16-5612, the arbitration should not proceed.

126 “(d) Unless prohibited by an arbitration agreement, on motion of a party, the Superior Court  
127 may order consolidation of separate arbitrations involving the same parties and a common issue of  
128 law or fact if necessary for the fair and expeditious resolution of the family law dispute.

129 “§ 16-5608. Qualification and selection of arbitrator.

130 “(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, unless waived in a  
131 record by the parties, an arbitrator shall be:

132 “(1) An attorney in good standing admitted to practice or on inactive status or a  
133 judge on retired status in a state; and

134 “(2) Trained in identifying domestic violence and child abuse.

135 “(b) The identification in the arbitration agreement of an arbitrator, arbitration  
136 organization, or method of selection of the arbitrator controls.

137 “(c) If an arbitrator is unable or unwilling to act or if the agreed-on method of selecting an  
138 arbitrator fails, on motion of a party, the Superior Court shall select an arbitrator.

139 “§ 16-5609. Disclosure by arbitrator; disqualification.

140 “(a) Before agreeing to serve as an arbitrator, an individual, after making reasonable  
141 inquiry, shall disclose to all parties any known fact a reasonable person would believe is likely to  
142 affect:

143 “(1) The impartiality of the arbitrator in the arbitration, including bias, a financial  
144 or personal interest in the outcome of the arbitration, or an existing or past relationship with a  
145 party, attorney representing a party, or witness; or

146                   “(2) The arbitrator’s ability to make a timely award.

147                   “(b) An arbitrator, the parties, and the attorneys representing the parties have a continuing  
148 obligation to disclose to all parties any known fact a reasonable person would believe is likely to  
149 affect the impartiality of the arbitrator or the arbitrator’s ability to make a timely award.

150                   “(c) An objection to the selection or continued service of an arbitrator and a motion for a  
151 stay of arbitration and disqualification of the arbitrator shall be made under the law and procedural  
152 rules of the District other than this chapter governing arbitrator disqualification.

153                   “(d) If a disclosure required by subsection (a)(1) or (b) of this section is not made, the  
154 Superior Court may:

155                   “(1) On motion of a party not later than 30 days after the failure to disclose is  
156 known or by the exercise of reasonable care should have been known to the party, suspend the  
157 arbitration;

158                   “(2) On timely motion of a party, vacate an award under § 16-5619(a)(2); or

159                   “(3) If an award has been confirmed, grant other appropriate relief under law of  
160 the District other than this chapter.

161                   “(e) If the parties agree to discharge an arbitrator or the arbitrator is disqualified, the parties  
162 by agreement may select a new arbitrator or request the Superior Court to select another arbitrator  
163 as provided in § 16-5608.

164                   “§ 16-5610. Party participation.

165                   “(a) A party may:



166 “(1) Be represented in an arbitration by an attorney;

167 “(2) Be accompanied by an individual who will not be called as a witness or act as  
168 an advocate; and

169 “(3) Participate in the arbitration to the full extent permitted under the law and  
170 procedural rules of the District other than this chapter governing a party’s participation in  
171 contractual arbitration.

172 “(b) A party or representative of a party may not communicate ex parte with the arbitrator  
173 except to the extent allowed in a family law proceeding for communication with a judge.

174 “§ 16-5611. Temporary order or award.

175 “(a) Before an arbitrator is selected and able to act, on motion of a party, the Superior Court  
176 may enter a temporary order under this title.

177 “(b) After an arbitrator is selected:

178 “(1) The arbitrator may make a temporary award under this title; and

179 “(2) If the matter is urgent and the arbitrator is not able to act in a timely manner or  
180 provide an adequate remedy, on motion of a party, the Superior Court may enter a temporary order.

181 “(c) On motion of a party, before the Superior Court confirms a final award, the court under  
182 § 16-5616, § 16-5618, or § 16-5619 may confirm, correct, vacate, or amend a temporary award  
183 made under subsection (b)(1) of this section.

184 “(d) On motion of a party, the Superior Court may enforce a subpoena or interim award  
185 issued by an arbitrator for the fair and expeditious disposition of the arbitration.

186           “§ 16-5612. Protection of party or child.

187           “(a) For the purposes of this section, the term “protection order” means an injunction or  
188 other order, issued under the domestic violence, family violence, or stalking laws of the issuing  
189 jurisdiction, to prevent an individual from engaging in a violent or threatening act against,  
190 harassment of, contact or communication with, or being in physical proximity to another individual  
191 who is a party or a child under the custodial responsibility of a party.

192           “(b) If a party is subject to a protection order or an arbitrator determines there is a  
193 reasonable basis to believe a party’s safety or ability to participate effectively in arbitration is at  
194 risk, the arbitrator shall stay the arbitration and refer the parties to the Superior Court. The  
195 arbitration may not proceed unless the party at risk affirms the arbitration agreement in a record  
196 and the court determines:

197                   “(1) The affirmation is informed and voluntary;

198                   “(2) Arbitration is not inconsistent with the protection order; and

199                   “(3) Reasonable procedures are in place to protect the party from risk of harm,  
200 harassment, or intimidation.

201           “(c) If an arbitrator determines that there is a reasonable basis to believe a child who is the  
202 subject of a child-related dispute is abused or neglected, the arbitrator shall terminate the  
203 arbitration of the child-related dispute and report the abuse or neglect to the Child and Family  
204 Services Agency.

205           “(d) An arbitrator may make a temporary award to protect a party or child from harm,  
206 harassment, or intimidation.

207           “(e) On motion of a party, the Superior Court may stay arbitration and review a  
208 determination or temporary award under this section.

209           “(f) This section supplements remedies available under law of the District other than this  
210 chapter for the protection of victims of domestic violence, family violence, stalking, harassment,  
211 or similar abuse.

212           “§ 16-5613. Powers and duties of arbitrator.

213           “(a) An arbitrator shall conduct an arbitration in a manner the arbitrator considers  
214 appropriate for a fair and expeditious disposition of the dispute.

215           “(b) An arbitrator shall provide each party a right to be heard, to present evidence material  
216 to the family law dispute, and to cross-examine witnesses.

217           “(c) Unless the parties otherwise agree in a record, an arbitrator’s powers include the power  
218 to:

219                   “(1) Select the rules for conducting the arbitration;

220                   “(2) Hold conferences with the parties before a hearing;

221                   “(3) Determine the date, time, and place of a hearing;

222                   “(4) Require a party to provide:

223                           “(A) A copy of a relevant court order;

224                   “(B) Information required to be disclosed in a family law proceeding under  
225 law of the District other than this chapter; and

226                   “(C) A proposed award that addresses each issue in arbitration;

227                   “(5) Meet with or interview a child who is the subject of a child-related dispute;

228                   “(6) Appoint a private expert at the expense of the parties;

229                   “(7) Administer an oath or affirmation and issue a subpoena for the attendance of a  
230 witness or the production of documents and other evidence at a hearing;

231                   “(8) Compel discovery concerning the family law dispute and determine the date,  
232 time, and place of discovery;

233                   “(9) Determine the admissibility and weight of evidence;

234                   “(10) Permit deposition of a witness for use as evidence at a hearing;

235                   “(11) For good cause, prohibit a party from disclosing information;

236                   “(12) Appoint an attorney, guardian ad litem, or other representative for a child at  
237 the expense of the parties;

238                   “(13) Impose a procedure to protect a party or child from risk of harm, harassment,  
239 or intimidation;

240                   “(14) Allocate arbitration fees, attorney’s fees, expert-witness fees, and other costs  
241 to the parties; and

242                   “(15) Impose a sanction on a party for bad faith or misconduct during the arbitration  
243 according to standards governing imposition of a sanction for litigant misconduct in a family law  
244 proceeding.

245                   “(d) An arbitrator may not allow ex parte communication except to the extent allowed in a  
246 family law proceeding for communication with a judge.

247                   “§ 16-5614. Recording of hearing.

248                   “(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section or required by law of  
249 the District other than this chapter, an arbitration hearing need not be recorded unless required by  
250 the arbitrator, provided by the arbitration agreement, or requested by a party.

251                   “(b) An arbitrator shall request a verbatim recording be made of any part of an arbitration  
252 hearing concerning a child-related dispute.

253                   “§ 16-5615. Award.

254                   “(a) An arbitrator shall make an award in a record, dated and signed by the arbitrator. The  
255 arbitrator shall give notice of the award to each party by a method agreed on by the parties or, if  
256 the parties have not agreed on a method, under the law and procedural rules of the District other  
257 than this chapter governing notice in contractual arbitration.

258                   “(b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c) of this section, the award under this  
259 chapter shall state the reasons on which it is based unless otherwise agreed by the parties.

260           “(c) An award determining a child-related dispute shall state the reasons on which it is  
261 based as required by law of the District other than this chapter for a Superior Court order in a  
262 family law proceeding.

263           “(d) An award under this chapter is not enforceable as a judgment until confirmed under §  
264 16-5616.

265           “§ 16-5616. Confirmation of award.

266           “(a) After an arbitrator gives notice under § 16-5615(a) of an award, including an award  
267 corrected under § 16-5617, a party may move the Superior Court for an order confirming the  
268 award.

269           “(b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c) of this section, the Superior Court shall  
270 confirm an award under this chapter if:

271                   “(1) The parties agree in a record to confirmation; or

272                   “(2) The time has expired for making a motion, and no motion is pending, under §  
273 16-5618 or § 16-5619.

274           “(c) If an award determines a child-related dispute, the Superior Court shall confirm the  
275 award under subsection (b) of this section if the court finds, after a review of the record if  
276 necessary, that the award on its face:

277                   “(1) Complies with § 16-5615 and law of the District other than this chapter  
278 governing a child-related dispute; and

279                   “(2) Is in the best interests of the child.

280 “(d) On confirmation, an award under this chapter is enforceable as a judgment.

281 “§ 16-5617. Correction by arbitrator of unconfirmed award.

282 “On motion of a party made not later than 30 days after an arbitrator gives notice under §  
283 16-5615(a) of an award, the arbitrator may correct the award:

284 “(1) If the award has an evident mathematical miscalculation or an evident mistake  
285 in the description of a person, thing, or property;

286 “(2) If the award is imperfect in a matter of form not affecting the merits on the  
287 issues submitted; or

288 “(3) To clarify the award.

289 “§ 16-5618. Correction by Superior Court of unconfirmed award.

290 “(a) On motion of a party made not later than 90 days after an arbitrator gives notice under  
291 § 16-5615(a) of an award, including an award corrected under § 16-5617, the Superior Court shall  
292 correct the award if:

293 “(1) The award has an evident mathematical miscalculation or an evident mistake  
294 in the description of a person, thing, or property;

295 “(2) The award is imperfect in a matter of form not affecting the merits of the  
296 issues submitted; or

297 “(3) The arbitrator made an award on a dispute not submitted to the arbitrator and  
298 the award may be corrected without affecting the merits of the issues submitted.

299           “(b) A motion under this section to correct an award may be joined with a motion to vacate  
300 or amend the award under § 16-5619.

301           “(c) Unless a motion under § 16-5619 is pending, the Superior Court may confirm a  
302 corrected award under § 16-5616.

303           “§ 16-5619. Vacation or amendment by Superior Court of unconfirmed award.

304           “(a) On motion of a party, the Superior Court shall vacate an unconfirmed award if the  
305 moving party establishes that:

306                   “(1) The award was procured by corruption, fraud, or other undue means;

307                   “(2) There was:

308                           “(A) Evident partiality by the arbitrator;

309                           “(B) Corruption by the arbitrator; or

310                           “(C) Misconduct by the arbitrator substantially prejudicing the rights of a  
311 party;

312                   “(3) The arbitrator refused to postpone a hearing on showing of sufficient cause  
313 for postponement, refused to consider evidence material to the controversy, or otherwise  
314 conducted the hearing contrary to § 16-5613, so as to prejudice substantially the rights of a party;

315                   “(4) The arbitrator exceeded the arbitrator’s powers;

316                   “(5) No arbitration agreement exists, unless the moving party participated in the  
317 arbitration without making a motion under § 16-5607 not later than the beginning of the first  
318 arbitration hearing; or



319                   “(6) The arbitration was conducted without proper notice under § 16-5606 of the  
320 initiation of arbitration, so as to prejudice substantially the rights of a party.

321                   “(b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c) of this section, on motion of a party,  
322 the Superior Court shall vacate an unconfirmed award that determines a child-related dispute if the  
323 moving party establishes that:

324                   “(1) The award does not comply with § 16-5615 or law of the District other than  
325 this chapter governing a child-related dispute or is contrary to the best interests of the child;

326                   “(2) The record of the hearing or the statement of reasons in the award is  
327 inadequate for the court to review the award; or

328                   “(3) A ground for vacating the award under subsection (a) of this section exists.

329                   “(c) If an award is subject to vacation under subsection (b)(1) of this section, on motion of  
330 a party, the Superior Court may amend the award if amending rather than vacating is in the best  
331 interests of the child.

332                   “(d) The Superior Court shall determine a motion under subsection (b) or (c) of this section  
333 based on the record of the arbitration hearing and facts occurring after the hearing.

334                   “(e) A motion under this section to vacate or amend an award shall be filed not later than  
335 90 days:

336                   “(1) After an arbitrator gives the party filing the motion notice of the award or a  
337 corrected award; or

338                   “(2) For a motion under subsection (a)(1) of this section, after the ground of  
339 corruption, fraud, or other undue means is known or by the exercise of reasonable care should have  
340 been known to the party filing the motion.

341                   “(f) If the Superior Court under this section vacates an award for a reason other than the  
342 absence of an enforceable arbitration agreement, the court may order a rehearing before an  
343 arbitrator. If the reason for vacating the award is that the award was procured by corruption, fraud,  
344 or other undue means or there was evident partiality, corruption, or misconduct by the arbitrator,  
345 the rehearing shall be before another arbitrator.

346                   “(g) If the Superior Court under this section denies a motion to vacate or amend an award,  
347 the court may confirm the award under § 16-5616 unless a motion is pending under § 16-5618.

348                   “§ 16-5620. Clarification of confirmed award.

349                   ““If the meaning or effect of an award confirmed under § 16-5616 is in dispute, the parties  
350 may:

351                   “(1) Agree to arbitrate the dispute before the original arbitrator or another arbitrator;

352 or

353                   “(2) Proceed in the Superior Court under law of the District other than this chapter  
354 governing clarification of a judgment in a family law proceeding.

355                   “§ 16-5621. Judgment on award.

356                   “(a) On granting an order confirming, vacating without directing a rehearing, or amending  
357 an award under this chapter, the Superior Court shall enter judgment in conformity with the order.

358           “(b) On motion of a party, the Superior Court may order that a document or part of the  
359 arbitration record be sealed or redacted to prevent public disclosure of all or part of the record or  
360 award to the extent permitted under law of the District other than this chapter.

361           “§ 16-5622. Modification of confirmed award or judgment.

362           ““If a party requests under law of the District other than this chapter a modification of an  
363 award confirmed under § 16-5616 or judgment on the award based on a fact occurring after  
364 confirmation:

365                   “(1) The parties shall proceed under the dispute-resolution method specified in the  
366 award or judgment; or

367                   “(2) If the award or judgment does not specify a dispute-resolution method, the  
368 parties may:

369                           “(A) Agree to arbitrate the modification before the original arbitrator or  
370 another arbitrator; or

371                           “(B) Absent agreement proceed under law of the District other than this  
372 chapter governing modification of a judgment in a family law proceeding.

373           “§ 16-5623. Enforcement of confirmed award.

374           “(a) The Superior Court shall enforce an award confirmed under § 16-5616, including a  
375 temporary award, in the manner and to the same extent as any other order or judgment of the court.

376           “(b) The Superior Court shall enforce an arbitration award in a family law dispute  
377 confirmed by a court in another state in the manner and to the same extent as any other order or  
378 judgment from another state.

379           “§ 16-5624. Appeal.

380           “(a) An appeal may be taken under this chapter from:

381                   “(1) An order granting or denying a motion to compel arbitration;

382                   “(2) An order granting or denying a motion to stay arbitration;

383                   “(3) An order confirming or denying confirmation of an award;

384                   “(4) An order correcting an award;

385                   “(5) An order vacating an award without directing a rehearing; or

386                   “(6) A final judgment.

387           “(b) An appeal under this section may be taken as from an order or a judgment in a civil  
388 action.

389           “§ 16-5625. Immunity of arbitrator.

390           “(a) An arbitrator or arbitration organization acting in that capacity in a family law dispute  
391 is immune from civil liability to the same extent as a judge of the Superior Court acting in a judicial  
392 capacity.

393           “(b) The immunity provided by this section supplements any immunity under law of  
394 the District other than this chapter.

395           “(c) An arbitrator’s failure to make a disclosure required by § 16-5609 does not cause the  
396 arbitrator to lose immunity under this section.

397           “(d) An arbitrator is not competent to testify, and may not be required to produce records,  
398 in a judicial, administrative, or similar proceeding about a statement, conduct, decision, or ruling  
399 occurring during an arbitration, to the same extent as a judge of the Superior Court acting in a  
400 judicial capacity. This subsection does not apply:

401                   “(1) To the extent disclosure is necessary to determine a claim by the arbitrator or  
402 arbitration organization against a party to the arbitration; or

403                   “(2) To a hearing on a motion under § 16-5619(a)(1) or (2) to vacate an award, if  
404 there is prima facie evidence that a ground for vacating the award exists.

405           “(e) If a person commences a civil action against an arbitrator arising from the services of  
406 the arbitrator or seeks to compel the arbitrator to testify or produce records in violation of  
407 subsection (d) of this section and the Superior Court determines that the arbitrator is immune from  
408 civil liability or is not competent to testify or required to produce the records, the court shall award  
409 the arbitrator reasonable attorney’s fees, costs, and reasonable expenses of litigation.

410           “§ 16-5626. Uniformity of application and construction.

411           “In applying and construing this chapter, consideration shall be given to the need to  
412 promote uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact it.

413           “§ 16-5627. Relation to Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act.

414           “*This chapter modifies, limits, and supersedes the Electronic Signatures in Global and*  
415 *National Commerce Act, approved June 30, 2000 (114 Stat. 464; 15 U.S.C. § 7001 et seq.) (“Act”),*  
416 *but shall not be construed to modify, limit, or supersede section 101(c) of the Act, or authorize*  
417 *electronic delivery of any of the notices described in section 103(b) of the Act.*

418           “§ 16-5628. Transitional provision.

419           “*This chapter applies to arbitration of a family law dispute under an arbitration agreement*  
420 *made on or after the effective date of this chapter. If an arbitration agreement was made before the*  
421 *effective date of this chapter, the parties may agree in a record that this chapter applies to the*  
422 *arbitration.”.*

423           Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

424           The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact  
425 statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved  
426 October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

427           Sec. 4. Effective date.

428           This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
429 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as  
430 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24,  
431 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
432 Columbia Register.