

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to alimony; amending s. 61.071, F.S.;
3 requiring the use of specified factors in calculating
4 alimony pendente lite; requiring findings by the court
5 regarding such alimony; specifying that a court may
6 not use certain presumptive alimony guidelines in
7 calculating such alimony; amending s. 61.08, F.S.;
8 providing definitions; requiring a court to make
9 specified findings before ruling on a request for
10 alimony; providing for determination of presumptive
11 alimony range and duration range; providing
12 presumptions concerning alimony awards depending on
13 the duration of marriages; providing for imputation of
14 income in certain circumstances; providing for awards
15 of nominal alimony in certain circumstances; providing
16 for taxability and deductibility of alimony awards;
17 specifying that a combined award of alimony and child
18 support may not constitute more than a specified
19 percentage of a payor's net income; providing that a
20 combined alimony and child support award be adjusted
21 to reduce the combined award if it exceeds such
22 specified percentage; providing for security of awards
23 through specified means; providing for modification,
24 termination, and payment of awards; providing for
25 participation in alimony depository; amending s.

26 | 61.14, F.S.; prohibiting a court from changing the
27 | duration of an alimony award; providing that a party
28 | may pursue an immediate modification of alimony in
29 | certain circumstances; revising factors to be
30 | considered in determining whether an existing award of
31 | alimony should be reduced or terminated because of an
32 | alleged supportive relationship; providing for the
33 | effective date of a reduction or termination of an
34 | alimony award based on the existence of a supportive
35 | relationship; providing that the remarriage of an
36 | alimony obligor is not a substantial change in
37 | circumstance; providing that the financial information
38 | of a subsequent spouse of a party paying or receiving
39 | alimony is inadmissible and undiscoverable; providing
40 | an exception; providing for modification or
41 | termination of an award based on a party's retirement;
42 | providing for a temporary reduction or suspension of
43 | an obligor's payment of alimony while his or her
44 | petition for modification or termination based on
45 | retirement is pending; providing for an award of
46 | attorney fees and costs for unreasonably pursuing or
47 | defending a modification of an award; establishing a
48 | rebuttable presumption that the modification of an
49 | alimony award is retroactive; providing applicability;
50 | providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 61.071, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

61.071 Alimony pendente lite; suit money.—In every proceeding for dissolution of the marriage, a party may claim alimony and suit money in the petition or by motion, and if the petition is well founded, the court shall allow a reasonable sum therefor. If a party in any proceeding for dissolution of marriage claims alimony or suit money in his or her answer or by motion, and the answer or motion is well founded, the court shall allow a reasonable sum therefor. After determining that there is a need for alimony and that there is an ability to pay alimony, the court shall consider the alimony factors in s. 61.08(4)(b)1.-14. and make specific written findings of fact regarding the relevant factors that justify an award of alimony under this section. The court may not use the presumptive alimony guidelines in s. 61.08 to calculate alimony under this section.

Section 2. Section 61.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

61.08 Alimony.—
(Substantial rewording of section. See s. 61.08, F.S., for present text.)

76 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, unless the
77 context otherwise requires, the term:

78 (a)1. "Gross income" means recurring income from any
79 source and includes, but is not limited to:

80 a. Income from salaries.

81 b. Wages, including tips declared by the individual for
82 purposes of reporting to the Internal Revenue Service or tips
83 imputed to bring the employee's gross earnings to the minimum
84 wage for the number of hours worked, whichever is greater.

85 c. Commissions.

86 d. Payments received as an independent contractor for
87 labor or services, which payments must be considered income from
88 self-employment.

89 e. Bonuses.

90 f. Dividends.

91 g. Severance pay.

92 h. Pension payments and retirement benefits actually
93 received.

94 i. Royalties.

95 j. Rental income, which is gross receipts minus ordinary
96 and necessary expenses required to produce the income.

97 k. Interest.

98 l. Trust income and distributions which are regularly
99 received, relied upon, or readily available to the beneficiary.

100 m. Annuity payments.

- 101 n. Capital gains.
- 102 o. Any money drawn by a self-employed individual for
103 personal use that is deducted as a business expense, which
104 moneys must be considered income from self-employment.
- 105 p. Social security benefits, including social security
106 benefits actually received by a party as a result of the
107 disability of that party.
- 108 q. Workers' compensation benefits.
- 109 r. Unemployment insurance benefits.
- 110 s. Disability insurance benefits.
- 111 t. Funds payable from any health, accident, disability, or
112 casualty insurance to the extent that such insurance replaces
113 wages or provides income in lieu of wages.
- 114 u. Continuing monetary gifts.
- 115 v. Income from general partnerships, limited partnerships,
116 closely held corporations, or limited liability companies;
117 except that if a party is a passive investor, has a minority
118 interest in the company, and does not have any managerial duties
119 or input, the income to be recognized may be limited to actual
120 cash distributions received.
- 121 w. Expense reimbursements or in-kind payments or benefits
122 received by a party in the course of employment, self-
123 employment, or operation of a business which reduces personal
124 living expenses.
- 125 x. Overtime pay.

126 y. Income from royalties, trusts, or estates.

127 z. Spousal support received from a previous marriage.

128 aa. Gains derived from dealings in property, unless the
129 gain is nonrecurring.

130 2. "Gross income" does not include:

131 a. Child support payments received.

132 b. Benefits received from public assistance programs.

133 c. Social security benefits received by a parent on behalf
134 of a minor child as a result of the death or disability of a
135 parent or stepparent.

136 d. Earnings or gains on retirement accounts, including
137 individual retirement accounts; except that such earnings or
138 gains shall be included as income if a party takes a
139 distribution from the account. If a party is able to take a
140 distribution from the account without being subject to a federal
141 tax penalty for early distribution and the party chooses not to
142 take such a distribution, the court may consider the
143 distribution that could have been taken in determining the
144 party's gross income.

145 3.a. For income from self-employment, rent, royalties,
146 proprietorship of a business, or joint ownership of a
147 partnership or closely held corporation, the term "gross income"
148 equals gross receipts minus ordinary and necessary expenses, as
149 defined in sub-subparagraph b., which are required to produce
150 such income.

151 b. "Ordinary and necessary expenses," as used in sub-
152 subparagraph a., does not include amounts allowable by the
153 Internal Revenue Service for the accelerated component of
154 depreciation expenses or investment tax credits or any other
155 business expenses determined by the court to be inappropriate
156 for determining gross income for purposes of calculating
157 alimony.

158 (b) "Potential income" means income which could be earned
159 by a party using his or her best efforts and includes potential
160 income from employment and potential income from the investment
161 of assets or use of property. Potential income from employment
162 is the income which a party could reasonably expect to earn by
163 working at a locally available, full-time job commensurate with
164 his or her education, training, and experience. Potential income
165 from the investment of assets or use of property is the income
166 which a party could reasonably expect to earn from the
167 investment of his or her assets or the use of his or her
168 property in a financially prudent manner.

169 (c)1. "Underemployed" means a party is not working full-
170 time in a position which is appropriate, based upon his or her
171 educational training and experience, and available in the
172 geographical area of his or her residence.

173 2. A party is not considered "underemployed" if he or she
174 is enrolled in an educational program that can be reasonably
175 expected to result in a degree or certification within a

176 reasonable period, so long as the educational program is:

177 a. Expected to result in higher income within the
178 foreseeable future.

179 b. A good faith educational choice based upon the previous
180 education, training, skills, and experience of the party and the
181 availability of immediate employment based upon the educational
182 program being pursued.

183 (d) "Years of marriage" means the number of whole years,
184 beginning from the date of the parties' marriage until the date
185 of the filing of the action for dissolution of marriage.

186 (2) INITIAL FINDINGS.—When a party has requested alimony
187 in a dissolution of marriage proceeding, before granting or
188 denying an award of alimony, the court shall make initial
189 written findings as to:

190 (a) The amount of each party's monthly gross income,
191 including, but not limited to, the actual or potential income,
192 and also including actual or potential income from nonmarital or
193 marital property distributed to each party.

194 (b) The years of marriage as determined from the date of
195 marriage through the date of the filing of the action for
196 dissolution of marriage.

197 (3) ALIMONY GUIDELINES.—After making the initial findings
198 described in subsection (2), the court shall calculate the
199 presumptive alimony amount range and the presumptive alimony
200 duration range. The court shall make written findings as to the

201 presumptive alimony amount range and presumptive alimony
202 duration range.

203 (a) Presumptive alimony amount range.—The low end of the
204 presumptive alimony amount range shall be calculated by using
205 the following formula:

206
207 (0.015 x the years of marriage) x the difference between
208 the monthly gross incomes of the parties

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210 The high end of the presumptive alimony amount range shall be
211 calculated by using the following formula:

212
213 (0.020 x the years of marriage) x the difference between
214 the monthly gross incomes of the parties

215
216 For purposes of calculating the presumptive alimony amount
217 range, 20 years of marriage shall be used in calculating the low
218 end and high end for marriages of 20 years or more. In
219 calculating the difference between the parties' monthly gross
220 income, the income of the party seeking alimony shall be
221 subtracted from the income of the other party. If the
222 application of the formulas to establish a guideline range
223 results in a negative number, the presumptive alimony amount
224 shall be \$0. If a court establishes the duration of the alimony
225 award at 50 percent or less of the length of the marriage, the

226 | court shall use the actual years of the marriage, up to a
 227 | maximum of 25 years, to calculate the high end of the
 228 | presumptive alimony amount range.

229 | (b) Presumptive alimony duration range.—The low end of the
 230 | presumptive alimony duration range shall be calculated by using
 231 | the following formula:

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 233 | 0.25 x the years of marriage

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 235 | The high end of the presumptive alimony duration range shall be
 236 | calculated by using the following formula:

237 |
 238 | 0.75 x the years of marriage

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 240 | (4) ALIMONY AWARD.—

241 | (a) Marriages of 2 years or less.—For marriages of 2 years
 242 | or less, there is a rebuttable presumption that no alimony shall
 243 | be awarded. The court may award alimony for a marriage with a
 244 | duration of 2 years or less only if the court makes written
 245 | findings that there is clear and convincing need for alimony,
 246 | there is an ability to pay alimony, and that the failure to
 247 | award alimony would be inequitable. The court shall then
 248 | establish the alimony award in accordance with paragraph (b).

249 | (b) Marriages of more than 2 years.—Absent an agreement of
 250 | the parties, alimony shall presumptively be awarded in an amount

251 within the alimony amount range calculated in paragraph (3) (a).
252 Absent an agreement of the parties, alimony shall presumptively
253 be awarded for a duration within the alimony duration range
254 calculated in paragraph (3) (b). In determining the amount and
255 duration of the alimony award, the court shall consider all of
256 the following factors upon which evidence was presented:

257 1. The financial resources of the recipient spouse,
258 including the actual or potential income from nonmarital or
259 marital property or any other source and the ability of the
260 recipient spouse to meet his or her reasonable needs
261 independently.

262 2. The financial resources of the payor spouse, including
263 the actual or potential income from nonmarital or marital
264 property or any other source and the ability of the payor spouse
265 to meet his or her reasonable needs while paying alimony.

266 3. The standard of living of the parties during the
267 marriage with consideration that there will be two households to
268 maintain after the dissolution of the marriage and that neither
269 party may be able to maintain the same standard of living after
270 the dissolution of the marriage.

271 4. The equitable distribution of marital property,
272 including whether an unequal distribution of marital property
273 was made to reduce or alleviate the need for alimony.

274 5. Both parties' income, employment, and employability,
275 obtainable through reasonable diligence and additional training

276 or education, if necessary, and any necessary reduction in
277 employment due to the needs of an unemancipated child of the
278 marriage or the circumstances of the parties.

279 6. Whether a party could become better able to support
280 himself or herself and reduce the need for ongoing alimony by
281 pursuing additional educational or vocational training along
282 with all of the details of such educational or vocational plan,
283 including, but not limited to, the length of time required and
284 the anticipated costs of such educational or vocational plan.

285 7. Whether one party has historically earned higher or
286 lower income than the income reflected at the time of trial and
287 the duration and consistency of income from overtime or
288 secondary employment.

289 8. Whether either party has foregone or postponed
290 economic, educational, or employment opportunities during the
291 course of the marriage.

292 9. Whether either party has caused the unreasonable
293 depletion or dissipation of marital assets.

294 10. The amount of temporary alimony and the number of
295 months that temporary alimony was paid to the recipient spouse.

296 11. The age, health, and physical and mental condition of
297 the parties, including consideration of significant health care
298 needs or uninsured or unreimbursed health care expenses.

299 12. Significant economic or noneconomic contributions to
300 the marriage or to the economic, educational, or occupational

301 advancement of a party, including, but not limited to, services
302 rendered in homemaking, child care, education, and career
303 building of the other party, payment by one spouse of the other
304 spouse's separate debts, or enhancement of the other spouse's
305 personal or real property.

306 13. The tax consequence of the alimony award.

307 14. Any other factor necessary to do equity and justice
308 between the parties.

309 (c) Deviation from guidelines.—The court may establish an
310 award of alimony that is outside the presumptive alimony amount
311 or alimony duration ranges only if the court considers all of
312 the factors in paragraph (b) and makes specific written findings
313 concerning the relevant factors that justify that the
314 application of the presumptive alimony amount or alimony
315 duration ranges, as applicable, is inappropriate or inequitable.

316 (d) Order establishing alimony award.—After consideration
317 of the presumptive alimony amount and duration ranges in
318 accordance with paragraphs (3) (a) and (b), and the factors upon
319 which evidence was presented in accordance with paragraph (b),
320 the court may establish an alimony award. An order establishing
321 an alimony award must clearly set forth both the amount and the
322 duration of the award. The court shall also make a written
323 finding that the payor has the financial ability to pay the
324 award.

325 (5) IMPUTATION OF INCOME.—If a party is voluntarily

326 unemployed or underemployed, alimony shall be calculated based
327 on a determination of potential income unless the court makes
328 specific written findings regarding the circumstances that make
329 it inequitable to impute income.

330 (6) NOMINAL ALIMONY.—Notwithstanding subsections (1), (3),
331 and (4), the court may make an award of nominal alimony in the
332 amount of \$1 per year if, at the time of trial, a party who has
333 traditionally provided the primary source of financial support
334 to the family temporarily lacks the ability to pay support but
335 is reasonably anticipated to have the ability to pay support in
336 the future. The court may also award nominal alimony for an
337 alimony recipient that is presently able to work but for whom a
338 medical condition with a reasonable degree of medical certainty
339 may inhibit or prevent his or her ability to work during the
340 duration of the alimony period. The duration of the nominal
341 alimony shall be established within the presumptive durational
342 range based upon the length of the marriage subject to the
343 alimony factors in paragraph (4) (b). Before the expiration of
344 the durational period, nominal alimony may be modified in
345 accordance with s. 61.14 as to amount to a full alimony award
346 using the alimony guidelines and factors in this section.

347 (7) TAXABILITY AND DEDUCTIBILITY OF ALIMONY.—

348 (a) Unless otherwise stated in the judgment or order for
349 alimony or in an agreement incorporated thereby, alimony shall
350 be deductible from income by the payor under s. 215 of the

351 Internal Revenue Code and includable in the income of the payee
352 under s. 71 of the Internal Revenue Code.

353 (b) When making a judgment or order for alimony, the court
354 may, in its discretion after weighing the equities and tax
355 efficiencies, order alimony be nondeductible from income by the
356 payor and nonincludable in the income of the payee.

357 (c) The parties may, in a marital settlement agreement,
358 separation agreement, or related agreement, specifically agree
359 in writing that alimony be nondeductible from income by the
360 payor and nonincludable in the income of the payee.

361 (8) MAXIMUM COMBINED AWARD.—In no event shall a combined
362 award of alimony and child support constitute more than 55
363 percent of the payor's net income, calculated without any
364 consideration of alimony or child support obligations. If the
365 combined award exceeds the maximum percentage of the payor's net
366 income, the court shall adjust the award of child support to
367 ensure that the 55-percent cap is not exceeded.

368 (9) SECURITY OF AWARD.—To the extent necessary to protect
369 an award of alimony, the court may order any party who is
370 ordered to pay alimony to purchase or maintain a decreasing term
371 life insurance policy or a bond, or to otherwise secure such
372 alimony award with any other assets that may be suitable for
373 that purpose, in an amount adequate to secure the alimony award.
374 Any such security may be awarded only upon a showing of special
375 circumstances. If the court finds special circumstances and

376 awards such security, the court must make specific evidentiary
377 findings regarding the availability, cost, and financial impact
378 on the obligated party. Any security may be modifiable in the
379 event that the underlying alimony award is modified and shall be
380 reduced in an amount commensurate with any reduction in the
381 alimony award.

382 (10) MODIFICATION OF AWARD.—A court may subsequently
383 modify or terminate the amount of an award of alimony initially
384 established under this section in accordance with s. 61.14.
385 However, a court may not modify the duration of an award of
386 alimony initially established under this section.

387 (11) TERMINATION OF AWARD.—An alimony award shall
388 terminate upon the death of either party or the remarriage of
389 the obligee.

390 (12) PAYMENT OF AWARD.—

391 (a) With respect to an order requiring the payment of
392 alimony entered on or after January 1, 1985, unless paragraph
393 (c) or paragraph (d) applies, the court shall direct in the
394 order that the payments of alimony be made through the
395 appropriate depository as provided in s. 61.181.

396 (b) With respect to an order requiring the payment of
397 alimony entered before January 1, 1985, upon the subsequent
398 appearance, on or after that date, of one or both parties before
399 the court having jurisdiction for the purpose of modifying or
400 enforcing the order or in any other proceeding related to the

401 order, or upon the application of either party, unless paragraph
402 (c) or paragraph (d) applies, the court shall modify the terms
403 of the order as necessary to direct that payments of alimony be
404 made through the appropriate depository as provided in s.

405 61.181.

406 (c) If there is no minor child, alimony payments need not
407 be directed through the depository.

408 (d)1. If there is a minor child of the parties and both
409 parties so request, the court may order that alimony payments
410 need not be directed through the depository. In this case, the
411 order of support shall provide, or be deemed to provide, that
412 either party may subsequently apply to the depository to require
413 that payments be made through the depository. The court shall
414 provide a copy of the order to the depository.

415 2. If subparagraph 1. applies, either party may
416 subsequently file with the clerk of the court a verified motion
417 alleging a default or arrearages in payment stating that the
418 party wishes to initiate participation in the depository
419 program. The moving party shall provide a copy of the motion to
420 the other party. No later than 15 days after filing the motion,
421 the court shall conduct an evidentiary hearing establishing the
422 default and arrearages, if any, and issue an order directing the
423 clerk of the circuit court to establish, or amend an existing,
424 family law case history account, and further advising the
425 parties that future payments shall thereafter be directed

426 | through the depository.

427 | 3. In IV-D cases, the Title IV-D agency shall have the
 428 | same rights as the obligee in requesting that payments be made
 429 | through the depository.

430 | Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 61.14, Florida
 431 | Statutes, is amended to read:

432 | 61.14 Enforcement and modification of support,
 433 | maintenance, or alimony agreements or orders.—

434 | (1) (a) When the parties enter into an agreement for
 435 | payments for, or instead of, support, maintenance, or alimony,
 436 | whether in connection with a proceeding for dissolution or
 437 | separate maintenance or with any voluntary property settlement,
 438 | or when a party is required by court order to make any payments,
 439 | and the circumstances or the financial ability of either party
 440 | changes or the child who is a beneficiary of an agreement or
 441 | court order as described herein reaches majority after the
 442 | execution of the agreement or the rendition of the order, either
 443 | party may apply to the circuit court of the circuit in which the
 444 | parties, or either of them, resided at the date of the execution
 445 | of the agreement or reside at the date of the application, or in
 446 | which the agreement was executed or in which the order was
 447 | rendered, for an order decreasing or increasing the amount of
 448 | support, maintenance, or alimony, and the court has jurisdiction
 449 | to make orders as equity requires, with due regard to the
 450 | changed circumstances or the financial ability of the parties or

451 the child, decreasing, increasing, or confirming the amount of
452 separate support, maintenance, or alimony provided for in the
453 agreement or order. However, a court may not decrease or
454 increase the duration of alimony provided for in the agreement
455 or order. A party is entitled to pursue an immediate
456 modification of alimony if the actual income earned by the other
457 party exceeds, by at least 10 percent, the amount imputed to
458 that party at the time the existing alimony award was determined
459 and such circumstance shall constitute a substantial change in
460 circumstances sufficient to support a modification of alimony.
461 However, an increase in an alimony obligor's income alone does
462 not constitute a basis for a modification to increase alimony
463 unless at the time the alimony award was established it was
464 determined that the obligor was underemployed or unemployed and
465 the court did not impute income to that party at his or her
466 maximum potential income. If an alimony obligor becomes
467 involuntarily underemployed or unemployed for a period of 6
468 months following the entry of the last order requiring the
469 payment of alimony, the obligor is entitled to pursue an
470 immediate modification of his or her existing alimony
471 obligations and such circumstance shall constitute a substantial
472 change in circumstance sufficient to support a modification of
473 alimony. A finding that medical insurance is reasonably
474 available or the child support guidelines schedule in s. 61.30
475 may constitute changed circumstances. Except as otherwise

476 provided in s. 61.30(11)(c), the court may modify an order of
477 support or, maintenance, ~~or alimony~~ by increasing or decreasing
478 the support or, maintenance, ~~or alimony~~ retroactively to the
479 date of the filing of the action or supplemental action for
480 modification as equity requires, giving due regard to the
481 changed circumstances or the financial ability of the parties or
482 the child.

483 (b)1. The court may reduce or terminate an award of
484 alimony upon specific written findings by the court that since
485 the granting of a divorce and the award of alimony a supportive
486 relationship exists or has existed within the previous year
487 before the date of the filing of the petition for modification
488 or termination between the obligee and another a person with
489 ~~whom the obligee resides. On the issue of whether alimony should~~
490 ~~be reduced or terminated under this paragraph, the burden is on~~
491 ~~the obligor to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that a~~
492 ~~supportive relationship exists.~~

493 2. In determining whether an existing award of alimony
494 should be reduced or terminated because of an alleged supportive
495 relationship between an obligee and a person who is not related
496 by consanguinity or affinity ~~and with whom the obligee resides,~~
497 the court shall elicit the nature and extent of the relationship
498 in question. The court shall give consideration, without
499 limitation, to circumstances, including, but not limited to, the
500 following, in determining the relationship of an obligee to

501 another person:

502 a. The extent to which the obligee and the other person
503 have held themselves out as a married couple by engaging in
504 conduct such as using the same last name, using a common mailing
505 address, referring to each other in terms such as "my spouse"
506 ~~"my husband" or "my wife,"~~ or otherwise conducting themselves in
507 a manner that evidences a permanent supportive relationship.

508 b. The period of time that the obligee has resided with
509 the other person in a permanent place of abode.

510 c. The extent to which the obligee and the other person
511 have pooled their assets or income or otherwise exhibited
512 financial interdependence.

513 d. The extent to which the obligee or the other person has
514 supported the other, in whole or in part.

515 e. The extent to which the obligee or the other person has
516 performed valuable services for the other.

517 f. The extent to which the obligee or the other person has
518 performed valuable services for the other's company or employer.

519 g. Whether the obligee and the other person have worked
520 together to create or enhance anything of value.

521 h. Whether the obligee and the other person have jointly
522 contributed to the purchase of any real or personal property.

523 i. Evidence in support of a claim that the obligee and the
524 other person have an express agreement regarding property
525 sharing or support.

526 j. Evidence in support of a claim that the obligee and the
527 other person have an implied agreement regarding property
528 sharing or support.

529 k. Whether the obligee and the other person have provided
530 support to the children of one another, regardless of any legal
531 duty to do so.

532 1. Whether the obligor's failure, in whole or in part, to
533 comply with all court-ordered financial obligations to the
534 obligee constituted a significant factor in the establishment of
535 the supportive relationship.

536 3. In any proceeding to modify an alimony award based upon
537 a supportive relationship, the obligor has the burden of proof
538 to establish, by a preponderance of the evidence, that a
539 supportive relationship exists or has existed within the
540 previous year before the date of the filing of the petition for
541 modification or termination. The obligor is not required to
542 prove cohabitation of the obligee and the third party.

543 4. Notwithstanding paragraph (f), if a reduction or
544 termination is granted under this paragraph, the reduction or
545 termination is retroactive to the date of filing of the petition
546 for reduction or termination.

547 ~~5.3.~~ This paragraph does not abrogate the requirement that
548 every marriage in this state be solemnized under a license, does
549 not recognize a common law marriage as valid, and does not
550 recognize a de facto marriage. This paragraph recognizes only

551 that relationships do exist that provide economic support
552 equivalent to a marriage and that alimony terminable on
553 remarriage may be reduced or terminated upon the establishment
554 of equivalent equitable circumstances as described in this
555 paragraph. The existence of a conjugal relationship, though it
556 may be relevant to the nature and extent of the relationship, is
557 not necessary for the application of the provisions of this
558 paragraph.

559 (c)1. For purposes of this section, the remarriage of an
560 alimony obligor does not constitute a substantial change in
561 circumstance or a basis for a modification of alimony.

562 2. The financial information, including, but not limited
563 to, information related to assets and income, of a subsequent
564 spouse of a party paying or receiving alimony is inadmissible
565 and may not be considered as a part of any modification action
566 unless a party is claiming that his or her income has decreased
567 since the marriage. If a party makes such a claim, the financial
568 information of the subsequent spouse is discoverable and
569 admissible only to the extent necessary to establish whether the
570 party claiming that his or her income has decreased is diverting
571 income or assets to the subsequent spouse that might otherwise
572 be available for the payment of alimony. However, this
573 subparagraph may not be used to prevent the discovery of or
574 admissibility in evidence of the income or assets of a party
575 when those assets are held jointly with a subsequent spouse.

576 This subparagraph is not intended to prohibit the discovery or
577 admissibility of a joint tax return filed by a party and his or
578 her subsequent spouse in connection with a modification of
579 alimony.

580 (d)1. An obligor may file a petition for modification or
581 termination of an alimony award based upon his or her actual
582 retirement.

583 a. A substantial change in circumstance is deemed to exist
584 if:

585 (I) The obligor has reached the age for eligibility to
586 receive full retirement benefits under s. 216 of the Social
587 Security Act, 42 U.S.C. s. 416 and has retired; or

588 (II) The obligor has reached the customary retirement age
589 for his or her occupation and has retired from that occupation.

590 An obligor may file an action within 1 year of his or her
591 anticipated retirement date and the court shall determine the
592 customary retirement date for the obligor's profession. However,
593 a determination of the customary retirement age is not an
594 adjudication of a petition for a modification of an alimony
595 award.

596 b. If an obligor voluntarily retires before reaching any
597 of the ages described in sub-subparagraph a., the court shall
598 determine whether the obligor's retirement is reasonable upon
599 consideration of the obligor's age, health, and motivation for
600 retirement and the financial impact on the obligee. A finding of

601 reasonableness by the court shall constitute a substantial
602 change in circumstance.

603 2. Upon a finding of a substantial change in circumstance,
604 there is a rebuttable presumption that an obligor's existing
605 alimony obligation shall be modified or terminated. The court
606 shall modify or terminate the alimony obligation, or make a
607 determination regarding whether the rebuttable presumption has
608 been overcome, based upon the following factors applied to the
609 current circumstances of the obligor and obligee:

610 a. The age of the parties.

611 b. The health of the parties.

612 c. The assets and liabilities of the parties.

613 d. The earned or imputed income of the parties as provided
614 in s. 61.08(1)(a) and (5).

615 e. The ability of the parties to maintain part-time or
616 full-time employment.

617 f. Any other factor deemed relevant by the court.

618 3. The court may temporarily reduce or suspend the
619 obligor's payment of alimony while his or her petition for
620 modification or termination under this paragraph is pending.

621 (e) A party who unreasonably pursues or defends an action
622 for modification of alimony shall be required to pay the
623 reasonable attorney fees and costs of the prevailing party.
624 Further, a party obligated to pay prevailing party attorney fees
625 and costs in connection with unreasonably pursuing or defending

626 an action for modification is not entitled to an award of
627 attorney fees and cost in accordance with s. 61.16.

628 (f) There is a rebuttable presumption that a modification
629 or termination of an alimony award is retroactive to the date of
630 the filing of the petition, unless the obligee demonstrates that
631 the result is inequitable.

632 (g)~~(e)~~ For each support order reviewed by the department
633 as required by s. 409.2564(11), if the amount of the child
634 support award under the order differs by at least 10 percent but
635 not less than \$25 from the amount that would be awarded under s.
636 61.30, the department shall seek to have the order modified and
637 any modification shall be made without a requirement for proof
638 or showing of a change in circumstances.

639 (h)~~(d)~~ The department may ~~shall have authority to~~ adopt
640 rules to implement this section.

641 Section 4. The amendments made by this act to chapter 61,
642 Florida Statutes, apply to all initial determinations of alimony
643 and all alimony modification actions that are pending on October
644 1, 2017, or that are brought on or after October 1, 2017. The
645 changes to the law made by this act do not constitute a
646 substantial change in circumstances and may not serve as the
647 sole basis to seek a modification of an alimony award made
648 before the effective date of this act.

649 Section 5. This act shall take effect October 1, 2017.