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HOUSE BILL 1171

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State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Representative Walen; by request of Department of Social and Health Services

1 AN ACT Relating to amending child support income withholding  
2 provisions to comply with federal child support program requirements;  
3 amending RCW 6.27.105, 6.27.140, 6.27.150, 6.27.330, 26.18.020,  
4 26.18.080, 26.18.090, 26.18.110, 26.18.130, 26.18.140, 26.23.010,  
5 26.23.050, 26.23.050, 26.23.060, 74.20A.080, 74.20A.240, and  
6 74.20A.350; reenacting and amending RCW 26.23.090; repealing RCW  
7 26.18.100; providing an effective date; and providing an expiration  
8 date.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

10 **Sec. 1.** RCW 6.27.105 and 2019 c 371 s 5 are each amended to read  
11 as follows:

12 (1) A writ that is issued for a continuing lien on earnings shall  
13 be substantially in the following form, but:

14 (a) ~~((If the writ is issued under an order or judgment for child  
15 support, the following statement shall appear conspicuously in the  
16 caption: "This garnishment is based on a judgment or order for child  
17 support";~~

18 ~~(b))~~ If the writ is issued under an order or judgment for  
19 private student loan debt, the following statement shall appear  
20 conspicuously in the caption: "This garnishment is based on a  
21 judgment or order for private student loan debt";



1	Garnishment Attorney Fee	\$....
2	Other	\$....

3 THIS IS A WRIT FOR A CONTINUING LIEN. THE GARNISHEE SHALL HOLD  
4 the nonexempt portion of the defendant's earnings due at the time of  
5 service of this writ and shall also hold the defendant's nonexempt  
6 earnings that accrue through the last payroll period ending on or  
7 before SIXTY days after the date of service of this writ. HOWEVER, IF  
8 THE GARNISHEE IS PRESENTLY HOLDING THE NONEXEMPT PORTION OF THE  
9 DEFENDANT'S EARNINGS UNDER A PREVIOUSLY SERVED WRIT FOR A CONTINUING  
10 LIEN, THE GARNISHEE SHALL HOLD UNDER THIS WRIT only the defendant's  
11 nonexempt earnings that accrue from the date the previously served  
12 writ or writs terminate and through the last payroll period ending on  
13 or before sixty days after the date of termination of the previous  
14 writ or writs. IN EITHER CASE, THE GARNISHEE SHALL STOP WITHHOLDING  
15 WHEN THE SUM WITHHELD EQUALS THE AMOUNT STATED IN THIS WRIT OF  
16 GARNISHMENT.

17 YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED, unless otherwise directed by the court,  
18 by the attorney of record for the plaintiff, or by this writ, not to  
19 pay any debt, whether earnings subject to this garnishment or any  
20 other debt, owed to the defendant at the time this writ was served  
21 and not to deliver, sell, or transfer, or recognize any sale or  
22 transfer of, any personal property or effects of the defendant in  
23 your possession or control at the time when this writ was served. Any  
24 such payment, delivery, sale, or transfer is void to the extent  
25 necessary to satisfy the plaintiff's claim and costs for this writ  
26 with interest.

27 YOU ARE FURTHER COMMANDED to answer this writ according to the  
28 instructions in this writ and in the answer forms and, within twenty  
29 days after the service of the writ upon you, to mail or deliver the  
30 original of such answer to the court, one copy to the plaintiff or  
31 the plaintiff's attorney, and one copy to the defendant, at the  
32 addresses listed at the bottom of this writ.

33 If, at the time this writ was served, you owed the defendant any  
34 earnings (that is, wages, salary, commission, bonus, tips, or other  
35 compensation for personal services or any periodic payments pursuant  
36 to a nongovernmental pension or retirement program), the defendant is  
37 entitled to receive amounts that are exempt from garnishment under  
38 federal and state law. You must pay the exempt amounts to the  
39 defendant on the day you would customarily pay the compensation or

1 other periodic payment. As more fully explained in the answer, the  
2 basic exempt amount is the greater of seventy-five percent of  
3 disposable earnings or a minimum amount determined by reference to  
4 the employee's pay period, to be calculated as provided in the  
5 answer. However, (~~if this writ carries a statement in the heading of~~  
6 ~~"This garnishment is based on a judgment or order for child support,"~~  
7 ~~the basic exempt amount is fifty percent of disposable earnings;~~  
8 ~~and~~) if this writ carries a statement in the heading of "This  
9 garnishment is based on a judgment or order for private student loan  
10 debt," the basic exempt amount is the greater of eighty-five percent  
11 of disposable earnings or fifty times the minimum hourly wage of the  
12 highest minimum wage law in the state at the time the earnings are  
13 payable; and if this writ carries a statement in the heading of "This  
14 garnishment is based on a judgment or order for consumer debt," the  
15 basic exempt amount is the greater of eighty percent of disposable  
16 earnings or thirty-five times the state minimum hourly wage.

17 YOU MAY DEDUCT A PROCESSING FEE FROM THE REMAINDER OF THE  
18 EMPLOYEE'S EARNINGS AFTER WITHHOLDING UNDER THIS WRIT. THE PROCESSING  
19 FEE MAY NOT EXCEED TWENTY DOLLARS FOR THE FIRST ANSWER AND TEN  
20 DOLLARS AT THE TIME YOU SUBMIT THE SECOND ANSWER.

21 If you owe the defendant a debt payable in money in excess of the  
22 amount set forth in the first paragraph of this writ, hold only the  
23 amount set forth in the first paragraph and any processing fee if one  
24 is charged and release all additional funds or property to defendant.

25 IF YOU FAIL TO ANSWER THIS WRIT AS COMMANDED, A JUDGMENT MAY BE  
26 ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE PLAINTIFF'S CLAIM  
27 AGAINST THE DEFENDANT WITH ACCRUING INTEREST, ATTORNEY FEES, AND  
28 COSTS WHETHER OR NOT YOU OWE ANYTHING TO THE DEFENDANT. IF YOU  
29 PROPERLY ANSWER THIS WRIT, ANY JUDGMENT AGAINST YOU WILL NOT EXCEED  
30 THE AMOUNT OF ANY NONEXEMPT DEBT OR THE VALUE OF ANY NONEXEMPT  
31 PROPERTY OR EFFECTS IN YOUR POSSESSION OR CONTROL.

32 JUDGMENT MAY ALSO BE ENTERED AGAINST THE DEFENDANT FOR COSTS AND  
33 FEES INCURRED BY THE PLAINTIFF.

34 Witness, the Honorable . . . . ., Judge of the above-  
35 entitled Court, and the seal thereof, this . . . . day  
36 of . . . . ., . . . . (year)

37 [Seal]

38 .....

1 Attorney for Clerk of  
2 Plaintiff (or the Court  
3 Plaintiff, if no  
4 attorney)  
5 .....  
6 Address By  
7 .....  
8 Name of Defendant Address"  
9 .....  
10 Address of Defendant

11 (2) If an attorney issues the writ of garnishment, the final  
12 paragraph of the writ, containing the date, and the subscribed  
13 attorney and clerk provisions, shall be replaced with text in  
14 substantially the following form:

15 "This writ is issued by the undersigned attorney of record for  
16 plaintiff under the authority of chapter 6.27 of the Revised Code of  
17 Washington, and must be complied with in the same manner as a writ  
18 issued by the clerk of the court.

19 Dated this .....day of....., .... (year)  
20 .....  
21 Attorney for Plaintiff  
22 .....  
23 Address Address of the Clerk of the  
24 Court"  
25 .....  
26 Name of Defendant  
27 .....  
28 Address of Defendant

29 **Sec. 2.** RCW 6.27.140 and 2019 c 371 s 6 are each amended to read  
30 as follows:

31 (1) The notice required by RCW 6.27.130(1) to be mailed to or  
32 served on an individual judgment debtor shall be in the following  
33 form, printed or typed in no smaller than size twelve point font:

34 NOTICE OF GARNISHMENT

1 AND OF YOUR RIGHTS

2 A Writ of Garnishment issued in a Washington court has been  
3 or will be served on the garnishee named in the attached copy  
4 of the writ. After receipt of the writ, the garnishee is  
5 required to withhold payment of any money that was due to you  
6 and to withhold any other property of yours that the  
7 garnishee held or controlled. This notice of your rights is  
8 required by law.

9 YOU HAVE THE FOLLOWING EXEMPTION RIGHTS:

10 WAGES. If the garnishee is your employer who owes wages or  
11 other personal earnings to you, your employer is required to  
12 pay amounts to you that are exempt under state and federal  
13 laws, as explained in the writ of garnishment. You should  
14 receive a copy of your employer's answer, which will show how  
15 the exempt amount was calculated. (~~If the garnishment is for~~  
16 ~~child support, the exempt amount paid to you will be a~~  
17 ~~percent of your disposable earnings, which is fifty percent~~  
18 ~~of that part of your earnings remaining after your employer~~  
19 ~~deducts those amounts which are required by law to be~~  
20 ~~withheld.)) A garnishment against wages or other earnings for  
21 child support may not be issued under chapter 6.27 RCW. If  
22 the garnishment is for private student loan debt, the exempt  
23 amount paid to you will be the greater of the following: A  
24 percent of your disposable earnings, which is eighty-five  
25 percent of the part of your earnings remaining after your  
26 employer deducts those amounts which are required by law to  
27 be withheld, or fifty times the minimum hourly wage of the  
28 highest minimum wage law in the state at the time the  
29 earnings are payable. If the garnishment is for consumer  
30 debt, the exempt amount paid to you will be the greater of  
31 the following: A percent of your disposable earnings, which  
32 is eighty percent of the part of your earnings remaining  
33 after your employer deducts those amounts which are required  
34 by law to be withheld, or thirty-five times the state minimum  
35 hourly wage.~~

36 BANK ACCOUNTS. If the garnishee is a bank or other  
37 institution with which you have an account in which you have  
38 deposited benefits such as Temporary Assistance for Needy

1 Families, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social  
2 Security, veterans' benefits, unemployment compensation, or  
3 any federally qualified pension, such as a state or federal  
4 pension, individual retirement account (IRA), or 401K plan,  
5 you may claim the account as fully exempt if you have  
6 deposited only such benefit funds in the account. It may be  
7 partially exempt even though you have deposited money from  
8 other sources in the same account. An exemption is also  
9 available under RCW 26.16.200, providing that funds in a  
10 community bank account that can be identified as the earnings  
11 of a stepparent are exempt from a garnishment on the child  
12 support obligation of the parent.

13 OTHER EXEMPTIONS. If the garnishee holds other property of  
14 yours, some or all of it may be exempt under RCW 6.15.010, a  
15 Washington statute that exempts certain property of your  
16 choice (including up to \$2,500.00 in a bank account if you  
17 owe on private student loan debts; up to \$2,000.00 in a bank  
18 account if you owe on consumer debts; or up to \$500.00 in a  
19 bank account for all other debts) and certain other property  
20 such as household furnishings, tools of trade, and a motor  
21 vehicle (all limited by differing dollar values).

22 HOW TO CLAIM EXEMPTIONS. Fill out the enclosed claim form and  
23 mail or deliver it as described in instructions on the claim  
24 form. If the plaintiff does not object to your claim, the  
25 funds or other property that you have claimed as exempt must  
26 be released not later than 10 days after the plaintiff  
27 receives your claim form. If the plaintiff objects, the law  
28 requires a hearing not later than 14 days after the plaintiff  
29 receives your claim form, and notice of the objection and  
30 hearing date will be mailed to you at the address that you  
31 put on the claim form.

32 THE LAW ALSO PROVIDES OTHER EXEMPTION RIGHTS. IF NECESSARY,  
33 AN ATTORNEY CAN ASSIST YOU TO ASSERT THESE AND OTHER RIGHTS,  
34 BUT YOU MUST ACT IMMEDIATELY TO AVOID LOSS OF RIGHTS BY  
35 DELAY.

36 (2)(a) If the writ is to garnish funds or property held by a  
37 financial institution, the claim form required by RCW 6.27.130(1) to  
38 be mailed to or served on an individual judgment debtor shall be in

1 the following form, printed or typed in no smaller than size twelve  
2 point font:

3 [Caption to be filled in by judgment creditor  
4 or plaintiff before mailing.]

5 Name of Court

6 ..... No .....

7 Plaintiff,

8 vs.

9 ..... EXEMPTION CLAIM

10 Defendant,

11 Garnishee Defendant

12 INSTRUCTIONS:

- 13 1. Read this whole form after reading the enclosed
- 14 notice. Then put an X in the box or boxes that
- 15 describe your exemption claim or claims and write
- 16 in the necessary information on the blank lines. If
- 17 additional space is needed, use the bottom of the
- 18 last page or attach another sheet.
- 19 2. Make two copies of the completed form. Deliver
- 20 the original form by first-class mail or in person to
- 21 the clerk of the court, whose address is shown at
- 22 the bottom of the writ of garnishment. Deliver one
- 23 of the copies by first-class mail or in person to the
- 24 plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and
- 25 address are shown at the bottom of the writ. Keep
- 26 the other copy. YOU SHOULD DO THIS AS
- 27 QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT NO LATER
- 28 THAN 28 DAYS (4 WEEKS) AFTER THE DATE
- 29 ON THE WRIT.

30 I/We claim the following money or property as exempt:

31 IF BANK ACCOUNT IS GARNISHED:

32 [ ] The account contains payments from:

33 [ ] Temporary assistance for needy families, SSI, or  
34 other public assistance. I receive \$ . . . . .  
35 monthly.

36 [ ] Social Security. I receive \$ . . . . . monthly.



- 1                                   [ ] Veterans' Benefits. I receive \$ . . . . . monthly.
- 2                                   [ ] Federally qualified pension, such as a state or
- 3                                   federal pension, individual retirement account
- 4                                   (IRA), or 401K plan. I receive \$ . . . . . monthly.
- 5                                   [ ] Unemployment Compensation. I receive \$ . . . . .
- 6                                   monthly.
- 7                                   [ ] Child support. I receive \$ . . . . . monthly.
- 8                                   [ ] Other. Explain . . . . .
- 9                                   [ ] \$2,500 exemption for private student loan debts.
- 10                                  [ ] \$2,000 exemption for consumer debts.
- 11                                  [ ] \$500 exemption for all other debts.

12 IF EXEMPTION IN BANK ACCOUNT IS CLAIMED,  
13 ANSWER ONE OR BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 14                                  [ ] No money other than from above payments are in
- 15                                  the account.
- 16                                  [ ] Moneys in addition to the above payments have
- 17                                  been deposited in the account. Explain . . . . .
- 18                                  . . . . .
- 19                                  . . . . .

20 OTHER PROPERTY:

- 21                                  [ ] Describe property . . . . .
- 22                                  . . . . .
- 23                                  (If you claim other personal property as exempt,
- 24                                  you must attach a list of all other personal property
- 25                                  that you own.)

26                                  . . . . .                                  . . . . .

27                                  Print: Your name	If married or in a state
	registered domestic
	partnership,
	name of husband/wife/
	state registered domestic
	partner
32                                  . . . . .	. . . . .
34                                  Your signature	Signature of husband,
	wife, or state registered
	domestic partner

35

36

1 .....  
 2 .....  
 3 Address Address  
 4 (if different from yours)  
 5 .....  
 6 Telephone number Telephone number  
 7 (if different from yours)

8 CAUTION: If the plaintiff objects to your claim, you will have to  
 9 go to court and give proof of your claim. For example, if you claim  
 10 that a bank account is exempt, you may have to show the judge your  
 11 bank statements and papers that show the source of the money you  
 12 deposited in the bank. Your claim may be granted more quickly if you  
 13 attach copies of such proof to your claim.

14 IF THE JUDGE DENIES YOUR EXEMPTION CLAIM, YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY THE  
 15 PLAINTIFF'S COSTS. IF THE JUDGE DECIDES THAT YOU DID NOT MAKE THE  
 16 CLAIM IN GOOD FAITH, HE OR SHE MAY DECIDE THAT YOU MUST PAY THE  
 17 PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY FEES.

18 (b) If the writ is directed to an employer to garnish earnings,  
 19 the claim form required by RCW 6.27.130(1) to be mailed to or served  
 20 on an individual judgment debtor shall be in the following form,  
 21 (~~subject to (c) of this subsection,~~) printed or typed in no smaller  
 22 than size twelve point font type:

23 [Caption to be filled in by judgment creditor  
 24 or plaintiff before mailing.]  
 25 .....  
 26 Name of Court  
 27 ..... No.....  
 28 Plaintiff,  
 29 vs.  
 30 ..... EXEMPTION CLAIM  
 31 Defendant,  
 32 .....  
 33 Garnishee Defendant

34 INSTRUCTIONS:



1		name of husband/wife/state
2		registered domestic partner
3	.....	.....
4	Your signature	Signature of husband,
5		wife, or state registered
6		domestic partner
7	.....	.....
8	.....	.....
9	Address	Address
10		(if different from yours)
11	.....	.....
12	Telephone number	Telephone number
13		(if different from yours)

14 CAUTION: If the plaintiff objects to your claim, you will have to  
15 go to court and give proof of your claim. For example, if you claim  
16 that a bank account is exempt, you may have to show the judge your  
17 bank statements and papers that show the source of the money you  
18 deposited in the bank. Your claim may be granted more quickly if you  
19 attach copies of such proof to your claim.

20 IF THE JUDGE DENIES YOUR EXEMPTION CLAIM, YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY THE  
21 PLAINTIFF'S COSTS. IF THE JUDGE DECIDES THAT YOU DID NOT MAKE THE  
22 CLAIM IN GOOD FAITH, HE OR SHE MAY DECIDE THAT YOU MUST PAY THE  
23 PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY FEES.

24 ~~(c) ((If the writ under (b) of this subsection is not a writ for~~  
25 ~~the collection of child support, the exemption language pertaining to~~  
26 ~~child support may be omitted.~~

27 ~~(d))~~ If the writ under (b) of this subsection is not a writ for  
28 the collection of private student loan debt, the exemption language  
29 pertaining to private student loan debt may be omitted.

30 ~~((e))~~ (d) If the writ under (b) of this subsection is not a  
31 writ for the collection of consumer debt, the exemption language  
32 pertaining to consumer debt may be omitted.

33 **Sec. 3.** RCW 6.27.150 and 2019 c 371 s 7 are each amended to read  
34 as follows:

35 (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this  
36 section, if the garnishee is an employer owing the defendant

1 earnings, then for each week of such earnings, an amount shall be  
2 exempt from garnishment which is the greatest of the following:

3 (a) Thirty-five times the federal minimum hourly wage in effect  
4 at the time the earnings are payable; or

5 (b) Seventy-five percent of the disposable earnings of the  
6 defendant.

7 (2) In the case of a garnishment based on a (~~judgment or other~~  
8 ~~order for child support or~~) court order for spousal maintenance,  
9 other than a mandatory wage assignment order pursuant to chapter  
10 26.18 RCW, or a mandatory assignment of retirement benefits pursuant  
11 to chapter 41.50 RCW, the exemption shall be fifty percent of the  
12 disposable earnings of the defendant.

13 (3) In the case of a garnishment based on a judgment or other  
14 order for the collection of private student loan debt, for each week  
15 of such earnings, an amount shall be exempt from garnishment which is  
16 the greater of the following:

17 (a) Fifty times the minimum hourly wage of the highest minimum  
18 wage law in the state at the time the earnings are payable; or

19 (b) Eighty-five percent of the disposable earnings of the  
20 defendant.

21 (4) In the case of a garnishment based on a judgment or other  
22 order for the collection of consumer debt, for each week of such  
23 earnings, an amount shall be exempt from garnishment which is the  
24 greater of the following:

25 (a) Thirty-five times the state minimum hourly wage; or

26 (b) Eighty percent of the disposable earnings of the defendant.

27 (5) The exemptions stated in this section shall apply whether  
28 such earnings are paid, or are to be paid, weekly, monthly, or at  
29 other intervals, and whether earnings are due the defendant for one  
30 week, a portion thereof, or for a longer period.

31 (6) Unless directed otherwise by the court, the garnishee shall  
32 determine and deduct exempt amounts under this section as directed in  
33 the writ of garnishment and answer, and shall pay these amounts to  
34 the defendant.

35 (7) No money due or earned as earnings as defined in RCW 6.27.010  
36 shall be exempt from garnishment under the provisions of RCW  
37 6.15.010, as now or hereafter amended.

38 **Sec. 4.** RCW 6.27.330 and 2012 c 159 s 13 are each amended to  
39 read as follows:

1       (1) A judgment creditor may obtain a continuing lien on earnings  
2 by a garnishment pursuant to this chapter, except as provided in  
3 subsection (2) of this section.

4       (2) A continuing lien on earnings may not be issued pursuant to  
5 this chapter if the garnishment is based on a judgment or other order  
6 for child support. A judgment creditor may seek to withhold from  
7 earnings based on a judgment or other order for child support under  
8 chapter 26.18 RCW.

9       **Sec. 5.** RCW 26.18.020 and 2018 c 150 s 102 are each amended to  
10 read as follows:

11       Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
12 this section apply throughout this chapter.

13       (1) "Dependent child" means any child for whom a support order  
14 has been established or for whom a duty of support is owed.

15       (2) "Duty of maintenance" means the duty to provide for the needs  
16 of a spouse or former spouse or domestic partner or former domestic  
17 partner imposed under chapter 26.09 RCW.

18       (3) "Duty of support" means the duty to provide for the needs of  
19 a dependent child, which may include necessary food, clothing,  
20 shelter, education, and health care. The duty includes any obligation  
21 to make monetary payments, to pay expenses, including maintenance in  
22 cases in which there is a dependent child, or to reimburse another  
23 person or an agency for the cost of necessary support furnished a  
24 dependent child. The duty may be imposed by court order, by operation  
25 of law, or otherwise.

26       (4) "Obligee" means the custodian of a dependent child, the  
27 spouse or former spouse or domestic partner or former domestic  
28 partner, or person or agency, to whom a duty of support or duty of  
29 maintenance is owed, or the person or agency to whom the right to  
30 receive or collect support or maintenance has been assigned.

31       (5) "Obligor" means the person owing a duty of support or duty of  
32 maintenance.

33       (6) "Support or maintenance order" means any judgment, decree, or  
34 order of support or maintenance issued by the superior court or  
35 authorized agency of the state of Washington; or a judgment, decree,  
36 or other order of support or maintenance issued by a court or agency  
37 of competent jurisdiction in another state or country, which has been  
38 registered or otherwise made enforceable in this state.

1 (7) "Employer" includes the United States government, a state or  
2 local unit of government, and any person or entity who pays or owes  
3 earnings or remuneration for employment to the obligor.

4 (8) "Earnings" means compensation paid or payable for personal  
5 services or remuneration for employment, whether denominated as  
6 wages, salary, commission, bonus, or otherwise, and, notwithstanding  
7 any other provision of law making the payments exempt from  
8 garnishment, attachment, or other process to satisfy support or  
9 maintenance obligations, specifically includes periodic payments  
10 pursuant to pension or retirement programs, or insurance policies of  
11 any type, but does not include payments made under Title 50 RCW,  
12 except as provided in RCW 50.40.020 and 50.40.050, or Title 74 RCW.

13 (9) "Disposable earnings" means that part of the earnings of an  
14 individual remaining after the deduction from those earnings of any  
15 amount required by law to be withheld.

16 (10) "Department" means the department of social and health  
17 services.

18 (11) "Health insurance coverage" is another term for, and  
19 included in the definition of, "health care coverage." Health  
20 insurance coverage includes any coverage under which medical services  
21 are provided by an employer or a union whether that coverage is  
22 provided through a self-insurance program, under the employee  
23 retirement income security act of 1974, a commercial insurer pursuant  
24 to chapters 48.20 and 48.21 RCW, a health care service contractor  
25 pursuant to chapter 48.44 RCW, or a health maintenance organization  
26 pursuant to chapter 48.46 RCW, and the state through chapter 41.05  
27 RCW.

28 (12) "Insurer" means a commercial insurance company providing  
29 disability insurance under chapter 48.20 or 48.21 RCW, a health care  
30 service contractor providing health care coverage under chapter 48.44  
31 RCW, a health maintenance organization providing comprehensive health  
32 care services under chapter 48.46 RCW, and shall also include any  
33 employer or union which is providing health insurance coverage on a  
34 self-insured basis.

35 (13) "Remuneration for employment" means moneys due from or  
36 payable by the United States to an individual within the scope of 42  
37 U.S.C. Sec. 659 and 42 U.S.C. Sec. 662(f).

38 (14) "Health care coverage" means fee for service, health  
39 maintenance organization, preferred provider organization, and other  
40 types of private health insurance and public health care coverage

1 under which medical services could be provided to a dependent child  
2 or children. The term "health care coverage" includes, but is not  
3 limited to, health insurance coverage.

4 (15) "Public health care coverage," sometimes called "state  
5 purchased health care," means state-financed or federally financed  
6 medical coverage, whether or not there is an assignment of rights.  
7 For children residing in Washington state, this includes coverage  
8 through the department of social and health services or the health  
9 care authority, except for coverage under chapter 41.05 RCW; for  
10 children residing outside of Washington, this includes coverage  
11 through another state's agencies that administer state purchased  
12 health care programs.

13 (16) "Income withholding order" means an order regarding  
14 withholding of income of amounts payable as a support obligation that  
15 complies with the requirements in 42 U.S.C. Sec. 666.

16 **Sec. 6.** RCW 26.18.080 and 1987 c 435 s 19 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18 (1) Upon receipt of a petition or motion seeking a mandatory wage  
19 assignment that complies with RCW 26.18.070, the court shall issue  
20 ((a)): (a) A wage assignment order~~((, as provided in RCW 26.18.100~~  
21 ~~and))~~ for unpaid maintenance; (b) an income withholding order for  
22 unpaid child support; or (c) an income withholding order for unpaid  
23 maintenance and unpaid child support, including the information  
24 required in RCW 26.18.090~~((+1))~~, directed to the employer, and  
25 commanding the employer to answer the order on the forms served with  
26 the order that comply with RCW 26.18.120 within twenty days after  
27 service of the order upon the employer.

28 (2) The clerk of the court shall forward a copy of the mandatory  
29 wage assignment or income withholding order, a true and correct copy  
30 of the support orders in the court file, and a statement containing  
31 the obligee's address and social security number shall be forwarded  
32 to the Washington state support registry within five days of the  
33 entry of the order.

34 **Sec. 7.** RCW 26.18.090 and 2008 c 6 s 1032 are each amended to  
35 read as follows:

36 (1) The wage assignment order in RCW 26.18.080 for unpaid  
37 maintenance only shall include:



1 (a) The maximum amount of current (~~support or~~) maintenance, if  
2 any, to be withheld from the obligor's earnings each month, or from  
3 each earnings disbursement; and

4 (b) The total amount of the arrearage or reimbursement judgment  
5 previously entered by the court, if any, together with interest, if  
6 any.

7 (2) The total amount to be withheld from the obligor's earnings  
8 each month, or from each earnings disbursement, shall not exceed  
9 fifty percent of the disposable earnings of the obligor. If the  
10 amounts to be paid toward the arrearage are specified in the  
11 (~~support or~~) maintenance order, then the maximum amount to be  
12 withheld is the sum of: Either the current support or maintenance  
13 ordered, or both; and the amount ordered to be paid toward the  
14 arrearage, or fifty percent of the disposable earnings of the  
15 obligor, whichever is less.

16 (3) The provisions of RCW 6.27.150 do not apply to wage  
17 assignments for (~~child support or~~) maintenance authorized under  
18 this chapter, but fifty percent of the disposable earnings of the  
19 obligor are exempt, and may be disbursed to the obligor.

20 ~~(4) ((If an obligor is subject to two or more attachments for  
21 child support on account of different obligees, the employer shall,  
22 if the nonexempt portion of the obligor's earnings is not sufficient  
23 to respond fully to all the attachments, apportion the obligor's  
24 nonexempt disposable earnings between or among the various obligees  
25 equally. Any obligee may seek a court order reapportioning the  
26 obligor's nonexempt disposable earnings upon notice to all interested  
27 obligees. Notice shall be by personal service, or in the manner  
28 provided by the civil rules of superior court or applicable statute.~~

29 ~~(5))~~ If an obligor is subject to two or more attachments for  
30 maintenance on account of different obligees, the employer shall, if  
31 the nonexempt portion of the obligor's earnings is not sufficient to  
32 respond fully to all the attachments, apportion the obligor's  
33 nonexempt disposable earnings between or among the various obligees  
34 equally. An obligee may seek a court order reapportioning the  
35 obligor's nonexempt disposable earnings upon notice to all interested  
36 obligees. Notice shall be by personal service, or in the manner  
37 provided by the civil rules of superior court or applicable statute.

38 (5) An income withholding order for unpaid child support or  
39 unpaid child support and unpaid maintenance shall meet federal  
40 requirements in 42 U.S.C. Sec. 666.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 8.**    RCW 26.18.100 (Wage assignment order—Form)  
2    and 2016 c 202 s 24, 2008 c 6 s 1033, & 1998 c 77 s 1 are each  
3    repealed.

4        **Sec. 9.**    RCW 26.18.110 and 2008 c 6 s 1034 are each amended to  
5    read as follows:

6        (1) An employer upon whom service of a wage assignment order or  
7    income withholding order has been made shall answer the order by  
8    sworn affidavit within twenty days after the date of service. The  
9    answer shall state whether the obligor is employed by or receives  
10   earnings or other remuneration from the employer, whether the  
11   employer will honor the wage assignment order, and whether there are  
12   either multiple child support or maintenance attachments, or both,  
13   against the obligor.

14        (2) If the employer possesses any earnings or remuneration due  
15   and owing to the obligor, the earnings subject to the wage assignment  
16   order shall be withheld immediately upon receipt of the wage  
17   assignment order. The withheld earnings shall be delivered to the  
18   Washington state support registry or, if the wage assignment order is  
19   to satisfy a duty of maintenance, to the addressee specified in the  
20   assignment within five working days of each regular pay interval.

21        (3) The employer shall continue to withhold the ordered amounts  
22   from nonexempt earnings or remuneration of the obligor until notified  
23   by:

24        (a) The court that the wage assignment has been modified or  
25   terminated; or

26        (b) ~~((The))~~ In the case of an income withholding order, the  
27   Washington state support registry ~~((or obligee))~~ that the accrued  
28   child support or maintenance debt has been paid ~~((, provided the wage~~  
29   ~~assignment order contains the language set forth under RCW~~  
30   ~~26.18.100(3)(b))~~). The employer shall promptly notify the addressee  
31   specified in the assignment when the employee is no longer employed.  
32   If the employer no longer employs the employee, the wage assignment  
33   order shall remain in effect for one year after the employee has left  
34   the employment or the employer has been in possession of any earnings  
35   or remuneration owed to the employee, whichever is later. The  
36   employer shall continue to hold the wage assignment order during that  
37   period. If the employee returns to the employer's employment during  
38   the one-year period the employer shall immediately begin to withhold  
39   the employee's earnings or remuneration according to the terms of the

1 wage assignment order. If the employee has not returned within one  
2 year, the wage assignment shall cease to have effect at the  
3 expiration of the one-year period, unless the employer continues to  
4 owe remuneration for employment to the obligor.

5 (4) The employer may deduct a processing fee from the remainder  
6 of the employee's earnings after withholding under the wage  
7 assignment order, even if the remainder is exempt under RCW  
8 26.18.090. The processing fee may not exceed (a) ten dollars for the  
9 first disbursement made by the employer to the Washington state  
10 support registry; and (b) one dollar for each subsequent disbursement  
11 to the clerk.

12 (5) An income withholding order (~~(for wage assignment)~~) for  
13 support for a dependent child entered under this chapter shall have  
14 priority over any other wage assignment or garnishment, except for  
15 another wage assignment or garnishment for child support, or order to  
16 withhold and deliver under chapter 74.20A RCW. An order for wage  
17 assignment for spousal maintenance entered under this chapter shall  
18 have priority over any other wage assignment or garnishment, except  
19 for a wage assignment, garnishment, or order to withhold and deliver  
20 under chapter 74.20A RCW for support of a dependent child, and except  
21 for another wage assignment or garnishment for maintenance.

22 (6) An employer who fails to withhold earnings as required by a  
23 wage assignment order or income withholding order issued under this  
24 chapter may be held liable to the obligee for one hundred percent of  
25 the support or maintenance debt, or the amount of support or  
26 maintenance moneys that should have been withheld from the employee's  
27 earnings whichever is the lesser amount, if the employer:

28 (a) Fails or refuses, after being served with a wage assignment  
29 order, to deduct and promptly remit from the unpaid earnings the  
30 amounts of money required in the order;

31 (b) Fails or refuses to submit an answer to the notice of wage  
32 assignment after being served; or

33 (c) Is unwilling to comply with the other requirements of this  
34 section.

35 Liability may be established in superior court. Awards in  
36 superior court shall include costs, interest under RCW 19.52.020 and  
37 4.56.110, and reasonable attorneys' fees.

38 (7) No employer who complies with a wage assignment order or  
39 income withholding order issued under this chapter may be liable to  
40 the employee for wrongful withholding.

1 (8) No employer may discharge, discipline, or refuse to hire an  
2 employee because of the entry or service of a wage assignment issued  
3 and executed under this chapter. If an employer discharges,  
4 disciplines, or refuses to hire an employee in violation of this  
5 section, the employee or person shall have a cause of action against  
6 the employer. The employer shall be liable for double the amount of  
7 damages suffered as a result of the violation and for costs and  
8 reasonable attorneys' fees, and shall be subject to a civil penalty  
9 of not more than two thousand five hundred dollars for each  
10 violation. The employer may also be ordered to hire, rehire, or  
11 reinstate the aggrieved individual.

12 (9) For wage assignments or income withholding payable to the  
13 Washington state support registry, an employer may combine amounts  
14 withheld from various employees into a single payment to the  
15 Washington state support registry, if the payment includes a listing  
16 of the amounts attributable to each employee and other information as  
17 required by the registry.

18 (10) An employer shall deliver a copy of the wage assignment  
19 order or income withholding order to the obligor as soon as is  
20 reasonably possible.

21 **Sec. 10.** RCW 26.18.130 and 1987 c 435 s 22 are each amended to  
22 read as follows:

23 (1) Service of the wage assignment order or income withholding  
24 order on the employer is invalid unless it is served with five answer  
25 forms in substantial conformance with RCW 26.18.120, together with  
26 stamped envelopes addressed to, respectively, the clerk of the court  
27 where the order was issued, the Washington state support registry,  
28 the obligee's attorney or the obligee, and the obligor. The obligee  
29 shall also include an extra copy of the wage assignment order for the  
30 employer to deliver to the obligor. Service on the employer shall be  
31 in person or by any form of mail requiring a return receipt.

32 (2) On or before the date of service of the wage assignment order  
33 or income withholding order on the employer, the obligee shall mail  
34 or cause to be mailed by certified mail a copy of the wage assignment  
35 order to the obligor at the obligor's last known post office address;  
36 or, in the alternative, a copy of the wage assignment order or income  
37 withholding order shall be served on the obligor in the same manner  
38 as a summons in a civil action on, before, or within two days after  
39 the date of service of the order on the employer. This requirement is

1 not jurisdictional, but if the copy is not mailed or served as this  
2 subsection provides, or if any irregularity appears with respect to  
3 the mailing or service, the superior court, in its discretion, may  
4 quash the wage assignment order or income withholding order, upon  
5 motion of the obligor promptly made and supported by an affidavit  
6 showing that the obligor has suffered substantial injury due to the  
7 failure to mail or serve the copy.

8 **Sec. 11.** RCW 26.18.140 and 2008 c 6 s 1036 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, in a  
11 hearing to quash, modify, or terminate the wage assignment order or  
12 income withholding order, the court may grant relief only upon a  
13 showing that the wage assignment order causes extreme hardship or  
14 substantial injustice. Satisfaction by the obligor of all past due  
15 payments subsequent to the issuance of the wage assignment order or  
16 income withholding order is not grounds to quash, modify, or  
17 terminate the wage assignment order or income withholding order. If a  
18 wage assignment order or income withholding order has been in  
19 operation for twelve consecutive months and the obligor's support or  
20 maintenance obligation is current, the court may terminate the order  
21 upon motion of the obligor unless the obligee can show good cause as  
22 to why the wage assignment order should remain in effect.

23 (2) The court may enter an order delaying, modifying, or  
24 terminating the wage assignment order or income withholding order and  
25 order the obligor to make payments directly to the obligee as  
26 provided in RCW 26.23.050(2).

27 **Sec. 12.** RCW 26.23.010 and 1987 c 435 s 1 are each amended to  
28 read as follows:

29 The legislature recognizes the financial impact on custodial  
30 parents and children when child support is not received on time, or  
31 in the correct amount. The legislature also recognizes the burden  
32 placed upon the responsible parent and the second family when  
33 enforcement action must be taken to collect delinquent support.

34 It is the intent of the legislature to create a central  
35 Washington state support registry to improve the recordkeeping of  
36 support obligations and payments, thereby providing protection for  
37 both parties, and reducing the burden on employers by creating a

1 single standardized process through which support payments are  
2 deducted from earnings.

3 It is also the intent of the legislature that child support  
4 payments be made through (~~mandatory wage assignment or payroll~~  
5 ~~deduction~~) income withholding if the responsible parent becomes  
6 delinquent in making support payments under a court or administrative  
7 order for support.

8 To that end, it is the intent of the legislature to interpret all  
9 existing statutes and processes to give effect to, and to implement,  
10 one central registry for recording and distributing support payments  
11 in this state.

12 **Sec. 13.** RCW 26.23.050 and 2019 c 46 s 5026 are each amended to  
13 read as follows:

14 (1) If the division of child support is providing support  
15 enforcement services under RCW 26.23.045, or if a party is applying  
16 for support enforcement services by signing the application form on  
17 the bottom of the support order, the superior court shall include in  
18 all court orders that establish or modify a support obligation:

19 (a) A provision that orders and directs the responsible parent to  
20 make all support payments to the Washington state support registry;

21 (b) A statement that withholding action may be taken against  
22 wages, earnings, assets, or benefits, and liens enforced against real  
23 and personal property under the child support statutes of this or any  
24 other state, without further notice to the responsible parent at any  
25 time after entry of the court order, unless:

26 (i) One of the parties demonstrates, and the court finds, that  
27 there is good cause not to require immediate income withholding and  
28 that withholding should be delayed until a payment is past due; or

29 (ii) The parties reach a written agreement that is approved by  
30 the court that provides for an alternate arrangement;

31 (c) A statement that the receiving parent might be required to  
32 submit an accounting of how the support, including any cash medical  
33 support, is being spent to benefit the child;

34 (d) A statement that any parent required to provide health care  
35 coverage for the child or children covered by the order must notify  
36 the division of child support and the other parent when the coverage  
37 terminates; and

38 (e) A statement that the responsible parent's privileges to  
39 obtain and maintain a license, as defined in RCW 74.20A.320, may not

1 be renewed, or may be suspended if the parent is not in compliance  
2 with a support order as provided in RCW 74.20A.320.

3 As used in this subsection and subsection (3) of this section,  
4 "good cause not to require immediate income withholding" means a  
5 written determination of why implementing immediate wage withholding  
6 would not be in the child's best interests and, in modification  
7 cases, proof of timely payment of previously ordered support.

8 (2) In all other cases not under subsection (1) of this section,  
9 the court may order the responsible parent to make payments directly  
10 to the person entitled to receive the payments, to the Washington  
11 state support registry, or may order that payments be made in  
12 accordance with an alternate arrangement agreed upon by the parties.

13 (a) The superior court shall include in all orders under this  
14 subsection that establish or modify a support obligation:

15 (i) A statement that withholding action may be taken against  
16 wages, earnings, assets, or benefits, and liens enforced against real  
17 and personal property under the child support statutes of this or any  
18 other state, without further notice to the responsible parent at any  
19 time after entry of the court order, unless:

20 (A) One of the parties demonstrates, and the court finds, that  
21 there is good cause not to require immediate income withholding and  
22 that withholding should be delayed until a payment is past due; or

23 (B) The parties reach a written agreement that is approved by the  
24 court that provides for an alternate arrangement;

25 (ii) A statement that the receiving parent may be required to  
26 submit an accounting of how the support is being spent to benefit the  
27 child;

28 (iii) A statement that any parent required to provide health care  
29 coverage for the child or children covered by the order must notify  
30 the division of child support and the other parent when the coverage  
31 terminates; and

32 (iv) A statement that a parent seeking to enforce the obligation  
33 to provide health care coverage may:

34 (A) File a motion in the underlying superior court action; or

35 (B) If there is not already an underlying superior court action,  
36 initiate an action in the superior court.

37 As used in this subsection, "good cause not to require immediate  
38 income withholding" is any reason that the court finds appropriate.

39 (b) The superior court may order immediate or delayed income  
40 withholding as follows:

1 (i) Immediate income withholding may be ordered if the  
2 responsible parent has earnings. If immediate income withholding is  
3 ordered under this subsection, all support payments shall be paid to  
4 the Washington state support registry. The superior court shall issue  
5 a mandatory wage assignment order as set forth in chapter 26.18 RCW  
6 when the support order is signed by the court. The parent entitled to  
7 receive the transfer payment is responsible for serving the employer  
8 with the order and for its enforcement as set forth in chapter 26.18  
9 RCW.

10 (ii) If immediate income withholding is not ordered, the court  
11 shall require that income withholding be delayed until a payment is  
12 past due. The support order shall contain a statement that  
13 withholding action may be taken against wages, earnings, assets, or  
14 benefits, and liens enforced against real and personal property under  
15 the child support statutes of this or any other state, without  
16 further notice to the responsible parent, after a payment is past  
17 due.

18 (c) If a mandatory (~~wage~~) income withholding order under  
19 chapter 26.18 RCW is issued under this subsection and the division of  
20 child support provides support enforcement services under RCW  
21 26.23.045, the existing wage withholding assignment is prospectively  
22 superseded upon the division of child support's subsequent service of  
23 an income withholding notice.

24 (3) The office of administrative hearings and the department of  
25 social and health services shall require that all support obligations  
26 established as administrative orders include a provision which orders  
27 and directs that the responsible parent shall make all support  
28 payments to the Washington state support registry. All administrative  
29 orders shall also state that the responsible parent's privileges to  
30 obtain and maintain a license, as defined in RCW 74.20A.320, may not  
31 be renewed, or may be suspended if the parent is not in compliance  
32 with a support order as provided in RCW 74.20A.320. All  
33 administrative orders shall also state that withholding action may be  
34 taken against wages, earnings, assets, or benefits, and liens  
35 enforced against real and personal property under the child support  
36 statutes of this or any other state without further notice to the  
37 responsible parent at any time after entry of the order, unless:

38 (a) One of the parties demonstrates, and the presiding officer  
39 finds, that there is good cause not to require immediate income  
40 withholding; or



1 (b) The parties reach a written agreement that is approved by the  
2 presiding officer that provides for an alternate agreement.

3 (4) If the support order does not include the provision ordering  
4 and directing that all payments be made to the Washington state  
5 support registry and a statement that withholding action may be taken  
6 against wages, earnings, assets, or benefits if a support payment is  
7 past due or at any time after the entry of the order, or that a  
8 parent's licensing privileges may not be renewed, or may be  
9 suspended, the division of child support may serve a notice on the  
10 responsible parent stating such requirements and authorizations.  
11 Service may be by personal service or any form of mail requiring a  
12 return receipt.

13 (5) Every support order shall state:

14 (a) The address where the support payment is to be sent;

15 (b) That withholding action may be taken against wages, earnings,  
16 assets, or benefits, and liens enforced against real and personal  
17 property under the child support statutes of this or any other state,  
18 without further notice to the responsible parent at any time after  
19 entry of a support order, unless:

20 (i) One of the parties demonstrates, and the court finds, that  
21 there is good cause not to require immediate income withholding; or

22 (ii) The parties reach a written agreement that is approved by  
23 the court that provides for an alternate arrangement;

24 (c) The income of the parties, if known, or that their income is  
25 unknown and the income upon which the support award is based;

26 (d) The support award as a sum certain amount;

27 (e) The specific day or date on which the support payment is due;

28 (f) The names and ages of the dependent children;

29 (g) A provision requiring both the responsible parent and the  
30 custodial parent to keep the Washington state support registry  
31 informed of whether he or she has access to health care coverage at  
32 reasonable cost and, if so, the health care coverage information;

33 (h) That either or both the responsible parent and the custodial  
34 parent shall be obligated to provide medical support for his or her  
35 child through health care coverage if:

36 (i) The obligated parent provides accessible coverage for the  
37 child through private or public health care coverage; or

38 (ii) Coverage that can be extended to cover the child is or  
39 becomes available to the parent through employment or is union-  
40 related; or

1 (iii) In the absence of such coverage, through an additional sum  
2 certain amount, as that parent's monthly payment toward the premium  
3 as provided under RCW 26.09.105;

4 (i) That a parent providing health care coverage must notify both  
5 the division of child support and the other parent when coverage  
6 terminates;

7 (j) That if proof of health care coverage or proof that the  
8 coverage is unavailable is not provided within twenty days, the  
9 parent seeking enforcement or the department may seek direct  
10 enforcement of the coverage through the employer or union of the  
11 parent required to provide medical support without further notice to  
12 the parent as provided under chapter 26.18 RCW;

13 (k) The reasons for not ordering health care coverage if the  
14 order fails to require such coverage;

15 (l) That the responsible parent's privileges to obtain and  
16 maintain a license, as defined in RCW 74.20A.320, may not be renewed,  
17 or may be suspended if the parent is not in compliance with a support  
18 order as provided in RCW 74.20A.320;

19 (m) That each parent must:

20 (i) Promptly file with the court and update as necessary the  
21 confidential information form required by subsection (7) of this  
22 section; and

23 (ii) Provide the state case registry and update as necessary the  
24 information required by subsection (7) of this section; and

25 (n) That parties to administrative support orders shall provide  
26 to the state case registry and update as necessary their residential  
27 addresses and the address of the responsible parent's employer. The  
28 division of child support may adopt rules that govern the collection  
29 of parties' current residence and mailing addresses, telephone  
30 numbers, dates of birth, social security numbers, the names of the  
31 children, social security numbers of the children, dates of birth of  
32 the children, driver's license numbers, and the names, addresses, and  
33 telephone numbers of the parties' employers to enforce an  
34 administrative support order. The division of child support shall not  
35 release this information if the division of child support determines  
36 that there is reason to believe that release of the information may  
37 result in physical or emotional harm to the party or to the child, or  
38 a restraining order or protective order is in effect to protect one  
39 party from the other party.

1 (6) After the responsible parent has been ordered or notified to  
2 make payments to the Washington state support registry under this  
3 section, the responsible parent shall be fully responsible for making  
4 all payments to the Washington state support registry and shall be  
5 subject to payroll deduction or other income-withholding action. The  
6 responsible parent shall not be entitled to credit against a support  
7 obligation for any payments made to a person or agency other than to  
8 the Washington state support registry except as provided under RCW  
9 74.20.101. A civil action may be brought by the payor to recover  
10 payments made to persons or agencies who have received and retained  
11 support moneys paid contrary to the provisions of this section.

12 (7) All petitioners and parties to all court actions under  
13 chapters 26.09, 26.10, 26.12, 26.18, 26.21A, 26.23, 26.26A, 26.26B,  
14 and 26.27 RCW shall complete to the best of their knowledge a  
15 verified and signed confidential information form or equivalent that  
16 provides the parties' current residence and mailing addresses,  
17 telephone numbers, dates of birth, social security numbers, driver's  
18 license numbers, and the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of  
19 the parties' employers. The clerk of the court shall not accept  
20 petitions, except in parentage actions initiated by the state, orders  
21 of child support, decrees of dissolution, or parentage orders for  
22 filing in such actions unless accompanied by the confidential  
23 information form or equivalent, or unless the confidential  
24 information form or equivalent is already on file with the court  
25 clerk. In lieu of or in addition to requiring the parties to complete  
26 a separate confidential information form, the clerk may collect the  
27 information in electronic form. The clerk of the court shall transmit  
28 the confidential information form or its data to the division of  
29 child support with a copy of the order of child support or parentage  
30 order, and may provide copies of the confidential information form or  
31 its data and any related findings, decrees, parenting plans, orders,  
32 or other documents to the state administrative agency that  
33 administers Title IV-A, IV-D, IV-E, or XIX of the federal social  
34 security act. In state initiated parentage actions, the parties  
35 adjudicated the parents of the child or children shall complete the  
36 confidential information form or equivalent or the state's attorney  
37 of record may complete that form to the best of the attorney's  
38 knowledge.

39 (8) The department has rule-making authority to enact rules  
40 consistent with 42 U.S.C. Sec. 652(f) and 42 U.S.C. Sec. 666(a)(19)

1 as amended by section 7307 of the deficit reduction act of 2005.  
2 Additionally, the department has rule-making authority to implement  
3 regulations required under 45 C.F.R. Parts 302, 303, 304, 305, and  
4 308.

5 **Sec. 14.** RCW 26.23.050 and 2020 c 227 s 9 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) If the division of child support is providing support  
8 enforcement services under RCW 26.23.045, or if a party is applying  
9 for support enforcement services by signing the application form on  
10 the bottom of the support order, the superior court shall include in  
11 all court orders that establish or modify a support obligation:

12 (a) A provision that orders and directs the person required to  
13 pay support to make all support payments to the Washington state  
14 support registry;

15 (b) A statement that withholding action may be taken against  
16 wages, earnings, assets, or benefits, and liens enforced against real  
17 and personal property under the child support statutes of this or any  
18 other state, without further notice to the person required to pay  
19 support at any time after entry of the court order, unless:

20 (i) One of the parties demonstrates, and the court finds, that  
21 there is good cause not to require immediate income withholding and  
22 that withholding should be delayed until a payment is past due; or

23 (ii) The parties reach a written agreement that is approved by  
24 the court that provides for an alternate arrangement;

25 (c) A statement that the payee under the order or the person  
26 entitled to receive support might be required to submit an accounting  
27 of how the support, including any cash medical support, is being  
28 spent to benefit the child;

29 (d) A statement that a party to the support order who is required  
30 to provide health care coverage for the child or children covered by  
31 the order must notify the division of child support and the other  
32 party to the support order when the coverage terminates;

33 (e) A statement that any privilege of the person required to pay  
34 support to obtain and maintain a license, as defined in RCW  
35 74.20A.320, may not be renewed, or may be suspended if the person is  
36 not in compliance with a support order as provided in RCW 74.20A.320;  
37 and

38 (f) A statement that the support obligation under the order may  
39 be abated as provided in RCW 26.09.320 if the person required to pay

1 support is confined in a jail, prison, or correctional facility for  
2 at least six months, or is serving a sentence greater than six months  
3 in a jail, prison, or correctional facility.

4 As used in this subsection and subsection (3) of this section,  
5 "good cause not to require immediate income withholding" means a  
6 written determination of why implementing immediate wage withholding  
7 would not be in the child's best interests and, in modification  
8 cases, proof of timely payment of previously ordered support.

9 (2) In all other cases not under subsection (1) of this section,  
10 the court may order the person required to pay support to make  
11 payments directly to the person entitled to receive the payments, to  
12 the Washington state support registry, or may order that payments be  
13 made in accordance with an alternate arrangement agreed upon by the  
14 parties.

15 (a) The superior court shall include in all orders under this  
16 subsection that establish or modify a support obligation:

17 (i) A statement that withholding action may be taken against  
18 wages, earnings, assets, or benefits, and liens enforced against real  
19 and personal property under the child support statutes of this or any  
20 other state, without further notice to the person required to pay  
21 support at any time after entry of the court order, unless:

22 (A) One of the parties demonstrates, and the court finds, that  
23 there is good cause not to require immediate income withholding and  
24 that withholding should be delayed until a payment is past due; or

25 (B) The parties reach a written agreement that is approved by the  
26 court that provides for an alternate arrangement;

27 (ii) A statement that the payee under the order or the person  
28 entitled to receive support may be required to submit an accounting  
29 of how the support is being spent to benefit the child;

30 (iii) A statement that any party to the order required to provide  
31 health care coverage for the child or children covered by the order  
32 must notify the division of child support and the other party to the  
33 order when the coverage terminates; and

34 (iv) A statement that a party to the order seeking to enforce the  
35 other party's obligation to provide health care coverage may:

36 (A) File a motion in the underlying superior court action; or

37 (B) If there is not already an underlying superior court action,  
38 initiate an action in the superior court.

39 As used in this subsection, "good cause not to require immediate  
40 income withholding" is any reason that the court finds appropriate.

1 (b) The superior court may order immediate or delayed income  
2 withholding as follows:

3 (i) Immediate income withholding may be ordered if the person  
4 required to pay support has earnings. If immediate income withholding  
5 is ordered under this subsection, all support payments shall be paid  
6 to the Washington state support registry. The superior court shall  
7 issue a mandatory wage assignment order as set forth in chapter 26.18  
8 RCW when the support order is signed by the court. The payee under  
9 the order or the person entitled to receive the transfer payment is  
10 responsible for serving the employer with the order and for its  
11 enforcement as set forth in chapter 26.18 RCW.

12 (ii) If immediate income withholding is not ordered, the court  
13 shall require that income withholding be delayed until a payment is  
14 past due. The support order shall contain a statement that  
15 withholding action may be taken against wages, earnings, assets, or  
16 benefits, and liens enforced against real and personal property under  
17 the child support statutes of this or any other state, without  
18 further notice to the person required to pay support, after a payment  
19 is past due.

20 (c) If a mandatory (~~wage~~) income withholding order under  
21 chapter 26.18 RCW is issued under this subsection and the division of  
22 child support provides support enforcement services under RCW  
23 26.23.045, the existing wage withholding assignment is prospectively  
24 superseded upon the division of child support's subsequent service of  
25 an income withholding notice.

26 (3) The office of administrative hearings and the department of  
27 social and health services shall require that all support obligations  
28 established as administrative orders include a provision which orders  
29 and directs that the person required to pay support shall make all  
30 support payments to the Washington state support registry. All  
31 administrative orders shall also state that any privilege of the  
32 person required to pay support to obtain and maintain a license, as  
33 defined in RCW 74.20A.320, may not be renewed, or may be suspended if  
34 the person is not in compliance with a support order as provided in  
35 RCW 74.20A.320. All administrative orders shall also state that  
36 withholding action may be taken against wages, earnings, assets, or  
37 benefits, and liens enforced against real and personal property under  
38 the child support statutes of this or any other state without further  
39 notice to the person required to pay support at any time after entry  
40 of the order, unless:

1 (a) One of the parties demonstrates, and the presiding officer  
2 finds, that there is good cause not to require immediate income  
3 withholding; or

4 (b) The parties reach a written agreement that is approved by the  
5 presiding officer that provides for an alternate agreement.

6 (4) If the support order does not include the provision ordering  
7 and directing that all payments be made to the Washington state  
8 support registry and a statement that withholding action may be taken  
9 against wages, earnings, assets, or benefits if a support payment is  
10 past due or at any time after the entry of the order, or that  
11 licensing privileges of the person required to pay support may not be  
12 renewed, or may be suspended, the division of child support may serve  
13 a notice on the person stating such requirements and authorizations.  
14 Service may be by personal service or any form of mail requiring a  
15 return receipt.

16 (5) Every support order shall state:

17 (a) The address where the support payment is to be sent;

18 (b) That withholding action may be taken against wages, earnings,  
19 assets, or benefits, and liens enforced against real and personal  
20 property under the child support statutes of this or any other state,  
21 without further notice to the person required to pay support at any  
22 time after entry of a support order, unless:

23 (i) One of the parties demonstrates, and the court finds, that  
24 there is good cause not to require immediate income withholding; or

25 (ii) The parties reach a written agreement that is approved by  
26 the court that provides for an alternate arrangement;

27 (c) The income of the parties, if known, or that their income is  
28 unknown and the income upon which the support award is based;

29 (d) The support award as a sum certain amount;

30 (e) The specific day or date on which the support payment is due;

31 (f) The names and ages of the dependent children;

32 (g) A provision requiring both the person required to pay  
33 support, and the payee under the order or the person entitled to  
34 receive support who is a parent of the child or children covered by  
35 the order, to keep the Washington state support registry informed of  
36 whether he or she has access to health care coverage at reasonable  
37 cost and, if so, the health care coverage information;

38 (h) That either or both the person required to pay support, and  
39 the payee under the order or the person entitled to receive support  
40 who is a parent of the child or children covered by the order, shall

1 be obligated to provide medical support for a child or children  
2 covered by the order through health care coverage if:

3 (i) The person obligated to provide medical support provides  
4 accessible coverage for the child or children through private or  
5 public health care coverage; or

6 (ii) Coverage that can be extended to cover the child or children  
7 is or becomes available to the person obligated to provide medical  
8 support through employment or is union-related; or

9 (iii) In the absence of such coverage, through an additional sum  
10 certain amount, as that obligated person's monthly payment toward the  
11 premium as provided under RCW 26.09.105;

12 (i) That a person obligated to provide medical support who is  
13 providing health care coverage must notify both the division of child  
14 support and the other party to the order when coverage terminates;

15 (j) That if proof of health care coverage or proof that the  
16 coverage is unavailable is not provided within twenty days, the  
17 person seeking enforcement or the department may seek direct  
18 enforcement of the coverage through the employer or union of the  
19 person required to provide medical support without further notice to  
20 the person as provided under chapter 26.18 RCW;

21 (k) The reasons for not ordering health care coverage if the  
22 order fails to require such coverage;

23 (l) That any privilege of the person required to pay support to  
24 obtain and maintain a license, as defined in RCW 74.20A.320, may not  
25 be renewed, or may be suspended if the person is not in compliance  
26 with a support order as provided in RCW 74.20A.320;

27 (m) That each party to the support order must:

28 (i) Promptly file with the court and update as necessary the  
29 confidential information form required by subsection (7) of this  
30 section; and

31 (ii) Provide the state case registry and update as necessary the  
32 information required by subsection (7) of this section; and

33 (n) That parties to administrative support orders shall provide  
34 to the state case registry and update as necessary their residential  
35 addresses and the address of the employer of the person required to  
36 pay support. The division of child support may adopt rules that  
37 govern the collection of parties' current residence and mailing  
38 addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, social security  
39 numbers, the names of the children, social security numbers of the  
40 children, dates of birth of the children, driver's license numbers,



1 and the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the parties'  
2 employers to enforce an administrative support order. The division of  
3 child support shall not release this information if the division of  
4 child support determines that there is reason to believe that release  
5 of the information may result in physical or emotional harm to the  
6 party or to the child, or a restraining order or protective order is  
7 in effect to protect one party from the other party.

8 (6) After the person required to pay support has been ordered or  
9 notified to make payments to the Washington state support registry  
10 under this section, that person shall be fully responsible for making  
11 all payments to the Washington state support registry and shall be  
12 subject to payroll deduction or other income-withholding action. The  
13 person required to pay support shall not be entitled to credit  
14 against a support obligation for any payments made to a person or  
15 agency other than to the Washington state support registry except as  
16 provided under RCW 74.20.101. A civil action may be brought by the  
17 person required to pay support to recover payments made to persons or  
18 agencies who have received and retained support moneys paid contrary  
19 to the provisions of this section.

20 (7) All petitioners and parties to all court actions under  
21 chapters 26.09, 26.10, 26.12, 26.18, 26.21A, 26.23, 26.26A, 26.26B,  
22 and 26.27 RCW shall complete to the best of their knowledge a  
23 verified and signed confidential information form or equivalent that  
24 provides the parties' current residence and mailing addresses,  
25 telephone numbers, dates of birth, social security numbers, driver's  
26 license numbers, and the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of  
27 the parties' employers. The clerk of the court shall not accept  
28 petitions, except in parentage actions initiated by the state, orders  
29 of child support, decrees of dissolution, or parentage orders for  
30 filing in such actions unless accompanied by the confidential  
31 information form or equivalent, or unless the confidential  
32 information form or equivalent is already on file with the court  
33 clerk. In lieu of or in addition to requiring the parties to complete  
34 a separate confidential information form, the clerk may collect the  
35 information in electronic form. The clerk of the court shall transmit  
36 the confidential information form or its data to the division of  
37 child support with a copy of the order of child support or parentage  
38 order, and may provide copies of the confidential information form or  
39 its data and any related findings, decrees, parenting plans, orders,  
40 or other documents to the state administrative agency that

1 administers Title IV-A, IV-D, IV-E, or XIX of the federal social  
2 security act. In state initiated parentage actions, the parties  
3 adjudicated the parents of the child or children shall complete the  
4 confidential information form or equivalent or the state's attorney  
5 of record may complete that form to the best of the attorney's  
6 knowledge.

7 (8) The department has rule-making authority to enact rules  
8 consistent with 42 U.S.C. Sec. 652(f) and 42 U.S.C. Sec. 666(a)(19)  
9 as amended by section 7307 of the deficit reduction act of 2005.  
10 Additionally, the department has rule-making authority to implement  
11 regulations required under 45 C.F.R. Parts 302, 303, 304, 305, and  
12 308.

13 **Sec. 15.** RCW 26.23.060 and 2020 c 125 s 15 are each amended to  
14 read as follows:

15 (1) The division of child support may issue (~~a notice of payroll~~  
16 ~~deduction~~) an income withholding order:

17 (a) As authorized by a support order that contains a notice  
18 clearly stating that child support may be collected by withholding  
19 from earnings, wages, or benefits without further notice to the  
20 obligated parent; or

21 (b) After service of a notice containing an income-withholding  
22 provision under this chapter or chapter 74.20A RCW.

23 (2) The division of child support shall serve (~~a notice of~~  
24 ~~payroll deduction~~) an income withholding order upon a responsible  
25 parent's employer or upon the employment security department for the  
26 state in possession of or owing any benefits from the unemployment  
27 compensation fund to the responsible parent pursuant to Title 50 RCW  
28 or from the paid family and medical leave program under Title 50A  
29 RCW:

30 (a) In the manner prescribed for the service of a summons in a  
31 civil action;

32 (b) By certified mail, return receipt requested;

33 (c) By electronic means if there is an agreement between the  
34 secretary and the person, firm, corporation, association, political  
35 subdivision, department of the state, or agency, subdivision, or  
36 instrumentality of the United States to accept service by electronic  
37 means; or

38 (d) By regular mail to a responsible parent's employer unless the  
39 division of child support reasonably believes that service of process

1 in the manner prescribed in (a) or (b) of this subsection is required  
2 for initiating an action to ensure employer compliance with the  
3 withholding requirement.

4 (3) Service of (~~(a notice of payroll deduction)~~) an income  
5 withholding order upon an employer or employment security department  
6 requires the employer or employment security department to  
7 immediately make a mandatory payroll deduction from the responsible  
8 parent's unpaid disposable earnings or benefits paid by the  
9 employment security department. The employer or employment security  
10 department shall thereafter deduct each pay period the amount stated  
11 in the notice divided by the number of pay periods per month. The  
12 payroll deduction each pay period shall not exceed fifty percent of  
13 the responsible parent's disposable earnings.

14 (4) (~~(A notice of payroll deduction)~~) An income withholding order  
15 for support shall have priority over any wage assignment,  
16 garnishment, attachment, or other legal process.

17 (5) The (~~(notice of payroll deduction)~~) income withholding order  
18 shall be in writing and include:

19 (a) The name and social security number of the responsible  
20 parent;

21 (b) The amount to be deducted from the responsible parent's  
22 disposable earnings each month, or alternate amounts and frequencies  
23 as may be necessary to facilitate processing of the payroll  
24 deduction;

25 (c) A statement that the total amount withheld shall not exceed  
26 fifty percent of the responsible parent's disposable earnings;

27 (d) The address to which the payments are to be mailed or  
28 delivered; and

29 (e) A notice to the responsible parent warning the responsible  
30 parent that, despite the payroll deduction, the responsible parent's  
31 privileges to obtain and maintain a license, as defined in RCW  
32 74.20A.320, may not be renewed, or may be suspended if the parent is  
33 not in compliance with a support order as defined in RCW 74.20A.320.

34 (6) An informational copy of the (~~(notice of payroll deduction)~~)  
35 income withholding order shall be mailed to the last known address of  
36 the responsible parent by regular mail.

37 (7) An employer or employment security department that receives  
38 (~~(a notice of payroll deduction)~~) an income withholding order shall  
39 make immediate deductions from the responsible parent's unpaid  
40 disposable earnings and remit proper amounts to the Washington state

1 support registry within seven working days of the date the earnings  
2 are payable to the responsible parent.

3 (8) An employer, or the employment security department, upon whom  
4 (~~a notice of payroll deduction~~) an income withholding order is  
5 served, shall make an answer to the division of child support within  
6 twenty days after the date of service. The answer shall confirm  
7 compliance and institution of the payroll deduction or explain the  
8 circumstances if no payroll deduction is in effect. The answer shall  
9 also state whether the responsible parent is employed by or receives  
10 earnings from the employer or receives benefit payments from the  
11 employment security department, whether the employer or employment  
12 security department anticipates paying earnings or benefits and the  
13 amount of earnings or benefit payments. If the responsible parent is  
14 no longer employed, or receiving earnings from the employer, the  
15 answer shall state the present employer's name and address, if known.  
16 If the responsible parent is no longer receiving benefit payments  
17 from the employment security department, the answer shall state the  
18 present employer's name and address, if known.

19 The returned answer or a payment remitted to the division of  
20 child support by the employer constitutes proof of service of the  
21 (~~notice of payroll deduction~~) income withholding order in the case  
22 where the notice was served by regular mail.

23 (9) The employer may deduct a processing fee from the remainder  
24 of the responsible parent's earnings after withholding under the  
25 notice of payroll deduction, even if the remainder is exempt under  
26 RCW 26.18.090. The processing fee may not exceed: (a) Ten dollars for  
27 the first disbursement made to the Washington state support registry;  
28 and (b) one dollar for each subsequent disbursement to the registry.

29 (10) The (~~notice of payroll deduction~~) income withholding order  
30 shall remain in effect until released by the division of child  
31 support, the court enters an order terminating the notice and  
32 approving an alternate arrangement under RCW 26.23.050, or until the  
33 employer no longer employs the responsible parent and is no longer in  
34 possession of or owing any earnings to the responsible parent. The  
35 employer shall promptly notify the office of support enforcement when  
36 the employer no longer employs the parent subject to the notice. For  
37 the employment security department, the notice of payroll deduction  
38 shall remain in effect until released by the division of child  
39 support or until the court enters an order terminating the notice.

1 (11) The division of child support (~~may~~) must use (~~uniform~~  
2 ~~interstate~~) income withholding forms adopted and required by the  
3 United States department of health and human services to take  
4 withholding actions under this section whether the responsible parent  
5 is receiving earnings or unemployment compensation in this state or  
6 in another state.

7 **Sec. 16.** RCW 26.23.090 and 1997 c 296 s 13 and 1997 c 58 s 894  
8 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

9 (1) The employer shall be liable to the Washington state support  
10 registry, or to the agency or firm providing child support  
11 enforcement for another state, under Title IV-D of the federal social  
12 security act and issuing a notice, garnishment, or wage assignment  
13 attaching wages or earnings in satisfaction of a support obligation,  
14 for the amount of support moneys which should have been withheld from  
15 the employee's earnings, if the employer:

16 (a) Fails or refuses, after being served with (~~a notice of~~  
17 ~~payroll deduction, or substantially similar action issued by the~~  
18 ~~agency or firm providing child support enforcement for another~~  
19 ~~state,~~) an income withholding order under Title IV-D of the federal  
20 social security act, to deduct and promptly remit from unpaid  
21 earnings the amounts of money required in the notice;

22 (b) Fails or refuses to submit an answer to the (~~notice of~~  
23 ~~payroll deduction, or substantially similar action issued by the~~  
24 ~~agency or firm providing child support enforcement for another~~  
25 ~~state,~~) income withholding order under Title IV-D of the federal  
26 social security act, after being served; or

27 (c) Is unwilling to comply with the other requirements of RCW  
28 26.23.060.

29 (2) Liability may be established in superior court or may be  
30 established pursuant to RCW 74.20A.350. Awards in superior court and  
31 in actions pursuant to RCW 74.20A.350 shall include costs, interest  
32 under RCW 19.52.020 and 4.56.110, and reasonable attorneys' fees and  
33 staff costs as a part of the award. Debts established pursuant to  
34 this section may be collected by the division of child support using  
35 any of the remedies available under chapter 26.09, 26.18, 26.21,  
36 26.23, 74.20, or 74.20A RCW for the collection of child support.

37 **Sec. 17.** RCW 74.20A.080 and 2002 c 199 s 7 are each amended to  
38 read as follows:

1 (1) The secretary may issue to any person, firm, corporation,  
2 association, political subdivision, department of the state, or  
3 agency, subdivision, or instrumentality of the United States, an  
4 order to withhold and deliver property of any kind, including but not  
5 restricted to earnings which are or might become due, owing, or  
6 belonging to the debtor, when the secretary has reason to believe  
7 that there is in the possession of such person, firm, corporation,  
8 association, political subdivision, department of the state, or  
9 agency, subdivision, or instrumentality of the United States property  
10 which is or might become due, owing, or belonging to said debtor.  
11 Such order to withhold and deliver may be issued:

12 (a) At any time, if a responsible parent's support order:

13 (i) Contains notice that withholding action may be taken against  
14 earnings, wages, or assets without further notice to the parent; or

15 (ii) Includes a statement that other income-withholding action  
16 under this chapter may be taken without further notice to the  
17 responsible parent;

18 (b) Twenty-one days after service of a notice of support debt  
19 under RCW 74.20A.040;

20 (c) Twenty-one days after service of a notice and finding of  
21 parental responsibility under RCW 74.20A.056;

22 (d) Twenty-one days after service of a notice of support owed  
23 under RCW 26.23.110;

24 (e) Twenty-one days after service of a notice and finding of  
25 financial responsibility under RCW 74.20A.055; or

26 (f) When appropriate under RCW 74.20A.270.

27 (2) The order to withhold and deliver shall:

28 (a) State the amount to be withheld on a periodic basis if the  
29 order to withhold and deliver is being served to secure payment of  
30 monthly current support;

31 (b) State the amount of the support debt accrued;

32 (c) State in summary the terms of RCW 74.20A.090 and 74.20A.100;

33 (d) Be served:

34 (i) In the manner prescribed for the service of a summons in a  
35 civil action;

36 (ii) By certified mail, return receipt requested;

37 (iii) By electronic means if there is an agreement between the  
38 secretary and the person, firm, corporation, association, political  
39 subdivision, department of the state, or agency, subdivision, or

1 instrumentality of the United States to accept service by electronic  
2 means;

3 (iv) By regular mail to a responsible parent's employer unless  
4 the division of child support reasonably believes that service of  
5 process in the manner prescribed in (d)(i) or (ii) of this subsection  
6 is required for initiating an action to ensure employer compliance  
7 with the withholding requirement; or

8 (v) By regular mail to an address if designated by the financial  
9 institution as a central levy or garnishment address, and if the  
10 notice is clearly identified as a levy or garnishment order. Before  
11 the division of child support may initiate an action for  
12 noncompliance with a withholding action against a financial  
13 institution, the division of child support must serve the order to  
14 withhold and deliver on the financial institution in the manner  
15 described in (d)(i) or (ii) of this subsection.

16 (3) The division of child support (~~(may)~~) must use (~~(uniform~~  
17 ~~interstate)~~) income withholding forms adopted and required by the  
18 United States department of health and human services to take  
19 withholding actions under this section (~~(when the responsible parent~~  
20 ~~is owed money or property that is located in this state or in another~~  
21 ~~state)~~).

22 (4) Any person, firm, corporation, association, political  
23 subdivision, department of the state, or agency, subdivision, or  
24 instrumentality of the United States upon whom service has been made  
25 is hereby required to:

26 (a) Answer said order to withhold and deliver within twenty days,  
27 exclusive of the day of service, under oath and in writing, and shall  
28 make true answers to the matters inquired of therein; and

29 (b) Provide further and additional answers when requested by the  
30 secretary.

31 (5) The returned answer or a payment remitted to the division of  
32 child support by the employer constitutes proof of service of the  
33 order to withhold and deliver in the case where the order was served  
34 by regular mail.

35 (6) Any such person, firm, corporation, association, political  
36 subdivision, department of the state, or agency, subdivision, or  
37 instrumentality of the United States in possession of any property  
38 which may be subject to the claim of the department shall:

39 (a)(i) Immediately withhold such property upon receipt of the  
40 order to withhold and deliver; and

1           (ii) Within seven working days deliver the property to the  
2 secretary;

3           (iii) Continue to withhold earnings payable to the debtor at each  
4 succeeding disbursement interval as provided for in RCW 74.20A.090,  
5 and deliver amounts withheld from earnings to the secretary within  
6 seven working days of the date earnings are payable to the debtor;

7           (iv) Deliver amounts withheld from periodic payments to the  
8 secretary within seven working days of the date the payments are  
9 payable to the debtor;

10          (v) Inform the secretary of the date the amounts were withheld as  
11 requested under this section; or

12          (b) Furnish to the secretary a good and sufficient bond,  
13 satisfactory to the secretary, conditioned upon final determination  
14 of liability.

15          (7) An order to withhold and deliver served under this section  
16 shall not expire until:

17           (a) Released in writing by the division of child support;

18           (b) Terminated by court order;

19           (c) A person or entity, other than an employer as defined in  
20 Title 50 RCW, who has received the order to withhold and deliver does  
21 not possess property of or owe money to the debtor; or

22           (d) An employer who has received the order to withhold and  
23 deliver no longer employs, contracts, or owes money to the debtor  
24 under a contract of employment, express or implied.

25          (8) Where money is due and owing under any contract of  
26 employment, express or implied, or is held by any person, firm,  
27 corporation, or association, political subdivision, or department of  
28 the state, or agency, subdivision, or instrumentality of the United  
29 States subject to withdrawal by the debtor, such money shall be  
30 delivered by remittance payable to the order of the secretary.

31          (9) Delivery to the secretary of the money or other property held  
32 or claimed shall satisfy the requirement and serve as full  
33 acquittance of the order to withhold and deliver.

34          (10) A person, firm, corporation, or association, political  
35 subdivision, department of the state, or agency, subdivision, or  
36 instrumentality of the United States that complies with the order to  
37 withhold and deliver under this chapter is not civilly liable to the  
38 debtor for complying with the order to withhold and deliver under  
39 this chapter.



1 (11) The secretary may hold the money or property delivered under  
2 this section in trust for application on the indebtedness involved or  
3 for return, without interest, in accordance with final determination  
4 of liability or nonliability.

5 (12) Exemptions contained in RCW 74.20A.090 apply to orders to  
6 withhold and deliver issued under this section.

7 (13) The secretary shall also, on or before the date of service  
8 of the order to withhold and deliver, mail or cause to be mailed a  
9 copy of the order to withhold and deliver to the debtor at the  
10 debtor's last known post office address, or, in the alternative, a  
11 copy of the order to withhold and deliver shall be served on the  
12 debtor in the same manner as a summons in a civil action on or before  
13 the date of service of the order or within two days thereafter. The  
14 copy of the order shall be mailed or served together with a concise  
15 explanation of the right to petition for judicial review. This  
16 requirement is not jurisdictional, but, if the copy is not mailed or  
17 served as in this section provided, or if any irregularity appears  
18 with respect to the mailing or service, the superior court, in its  
19 discretion on motion of the debtor promptly made and supported by  
20 affidavit showing that the debtor has suffered substantial injury due  
21 to the failure to mail the copy, may set aside the order to withhold  
22 and deliver and award to the debtor an amount equal to the damages  
23 resulting from the secretary's failure to serve on or mail to the  
24 debtor the copy.

25 (14) An order to withhold and deliver issued in accordance with  
26 this section has priority over any other wage assignment,  
27 garnishment, attachment, or other legal process.

28 (15) The division of child support shall notify any person, firm,  
29 corporation, association, or political subdivision, department of the  
30 state, or agency, subdivision, or instrumentality of the United  
31 States required to withhold and deliver the earnings of a debtor  
32 under this action that they may deduct a processing fee from the  
33 remainder of the debtor's earnings, even if the remainder would  
34 otherwise be exempt under RCW 74.20A.090. The processing fee shall  
35 not exceed ten dollars for the first disbursement to the department  
36 and one dollar for each subsequent disbursement under the order to  
37 withhold and deliver.

38 **Sec. 18.** RCW 74.20A.240 and 1997 c 296 s 16 are each amended to  
39 read as follows:

1       (1) Any person, firm, corporation, association, political  
2 subdivision, department of the state, or agency, subdivision, or  
3 instrumentality of the United States employing a person owing a  
4 support debt or obligation, shall honor, according to its terms, a  
5 duly executed assignment of earnings presented by the secretary as a  
6 plan to satisfy or retire a support debt or obligation. This  
7 requirement to honor the assignment of earnings and the assignment of  
8 earnings itself shall be applicable whether said earnings are to be  
9 paid presently or in the future and shall continue in force and  
10 effect until released in writing by the secretary. Payment of moneys  
11 pursuant to an assignment of earnings presented by the secretary  
12 shall serve as full acquittance under any contract of employment. A  
13 person, firm, corporation, association, political subdivision,  
14 department of the state, or agency, subdivision, or instrumentality  
15 of the United States that complies with the assignment of earnings  
16 under this chapter is not civilly liable to the debtor for complying  
17 with the assignment of earnings under this chapter. The secretary  
18 shall be released from liability for improper receipt of moneys under  
19 an assignment of earnings upon return of any moneys so received.

20       (2) An assignment of earnings presented by the secretary in  
21 accordance with this section must include income withholding forms  
22 adopted and required by the United States department of health and  
23 human services.

24       (3) An assignment of earnings presented by the secretary in  
25 accordance with this section has priority over any other wage  
26 assignment, garnishment, attachment, or other legal process except  
27 for another wage assignment, garnishment, attachment, or other legal  
28 process for support moneys.

29       (4) The employer may deduct a processing fee from the remainder  
30 of the debtor's earnings, even if the remainder would be exempt under  
31 RCW 74.20A.090. The processing fee shall not exceed fifteen dollars  
32 from the first disbursement to the department and one dollar for each  
33 subsequent disbursement under the assignment of earnings.

34       **Sec. 19.** RCW 74.20A.350 and 2018 c 150 s 202 are each amended to  
35 read as follows:

36       (1) The division of child support may issue a notice of  
37 noncompliance to any person, firm, entity, or agency of state or  
38 federal government that the division believes is not complying with:

1 (a) (~~A notice of payroll deduction~~) An income withholding order  
2 issued under chapter 26.23 RCW;

3 (b) A lien, order to withhold and deliver, or assignment of  
4 earnings issued under this chapter;

5 (c) Any other wage assignment, garnishment, attachment, or  
6 withholding instrument properly served by the agency or firm  
7 providing child support enforcement services for another state, under  
8 Title IV-D of the federal social security act;

9 (d) A subpoena issued by the division of child support, or the  
10 agency or firm providing child support enforcement for another state,  
11 under Title IV-D of the federal social security act;

12 (e) An information request issued by the division of child  
13 support, or the agency or firm providing child support enforcement  
14 for another state under Title IV-D of the federal social security  
15 act, to an employer or entity required to respond to such requests  
16 under RCW 74.20A.360;

17 (f) The duty to report newly hired employees imposed by RCW  
18 26.23.040; or

19 (g) The duty of a business, employer, or payroll processor that  
20 has received an income withholding order from the department of  
21 social and health services requiring payment to the Washington state  
22 support registry to remit withheld funds by electronic means imposed  
23 by RCW 26.23.065.

24 (2) Liability for noncompliance with a wage withholding,  
25 garnishment, order to withhold and deliver, or any other lien or  
26 attachment issued to secure payment of child support is governed by  
27 RCW 26.23.090 and 74.20A.100, except that liability for noncompliance  
28 with remittance time frames is governed by subsection (4) of this  
29 section.

30 (3) Fines for noncompliance by a business, employer, or payroll  
31 processor with the duty to remit withheld funds by electronic means  
32 imposed by RCW 26.23.065 are governed by subsection (4)(c) of this  
33 section.

34 (4) The division of child support may impose fines of up to one  
35 hundred dollars per occurrence for:

36 (a) Noncompliance with a subpoena or an information request  
37 issued by the division of child support, or the agency or firm  
38 providing child support enforcement services for another state under  
39 Title IV-D of the federal social security act;

1 (b) Noncompliance with the required time frames for remitting  
2 withheld support moneys to the Washington state support registry, or  
3 the agency or firm providing child support enforcement services for  
4 another state, except that no liability shall be established for  
5 failure to make timely remittance unless the division of child  
6 support has provided the person, firm, entity, or agency of state or  
7 federal government with written warning:

8 (i) Explaining the duty to remit withheld payments promptly;

9 (ii) Explaining the potential for fines for delayed submission;

10 and

11 (iii) Providing a contact person within the division of child  
12 support with whom the person, firm, entity, or agency of state or  
13 federal government may seek assistance with child support withholding  
14 issues;

15 (c) A business, employer, or payroll processor's noncompliance  
16 with the duty to remit withheld funds by electronic means imposed by  
17 RCW 26.23.065. The division of child support may not impose fines for  
18 failure to comply with this requirement unless it has provided the  
19 person, firm, entity, or agency of state or federal government with  
20 written warning:

21 (i) Explaining the duty to remit withheld payments by electronic  
22 means;

23 (ii) Explaining the potential for fines for failure to remit  
24 withheld payments by electronic means when required under RCW  
25 26.23.065; and

26 (iii) Providing a contact person within the division of child  
27 support with whom the person, firm, entity, or agency of state or  
28 federal government may seek assistance with child support withholding  
29 issues.

30 (5) The division of child support may assess fines according to  
31 RCW 26.23.040 for failure to comply with employer reporting  
32 requirements.

33 (6) The division of child support may suspend licenses for  
34 failure to comply with a subpoena issued under RCW 74.20.225.

35 (7) The division of child support may serve a notice of  
36 noncompliance by personal service or by any method of mailing  
37 requiring a return receipt.

38 (8) The liability asserted by the division of child support in  
39 the notice of noncompliance becomes final and collectible on the

1 twenty-first day after the date of service, unless within that time  
2 the person, firm, entity, or agency of state or federal government:

3 (a) Initiates an action in superior court to contest the notice  
4 of noncompliance;

5 (b) Requests a hearing by delivering a hearing request to the  
6 division of child support in accordance with rules adopted by the  
7 secretary under this section; or

8 (c) Contacts the division of child support and negotiates an  
9 alternate resolution to the asserted noncompliance or demonstrates  
10 that the person, firm, entity, or agency of state or federal  
11 government has complied with the child support processes.

12 (9) The notice of noncompliance shall contain:

13 (a) A full and fair disclosure of the rights and obligations  
14 created by this section; and

15 (b) Identification of the:

16 (i) Child support process with respect to which the division of  
17 child support is alleging noncompliance; and

18 (ii) State child support enforcement agency issuing the original  
19 child support process.

20 (10) In an administrative hearing convened under subsection  
21 (8)(b) of this section, the presiding officer shall determine whether  
22 or not, and to what extent, liability for noncompliance exists under  
23 this section, and shall enter an order containing these findings. If  
24 liability does exist, the presiding officer shall include language in  
25 the order advising the parties to the proceeding that the liability  
26 may be collected by any means available to the division of child  
27 support under subsection (13) of this section without further notice  
28 to the liable party.

29 (11) Hearings under this section are governed by the  
30 administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW.

31 (12) After the twenty days following service of the notice, the  
32 person, firm, entity, or agency of state or federal government may  
33 petition for a late hearing. A petition for a late hearing does not  
34 stay any collection action to recover the debt. A late hearing is  
35 available upon a showing of any of the grounds stated in civil rule  
36 60 for the vacation of orders.

37 (13) The division of child support may collect any obligation  
38 established under this section using any of the remedies available  
39 under chapter 26.09, 26.18, 26.21A, 26.23, 74.20, or 74.20A RCW for  
40 the collection of child support.

1 (14) The division of child support may enter agreements for the  
2 repayment of obligations under this section. Agreements may:

3 (a) Suspend the obligation imposed by this section conditioned on  
4 future compliance with child support processes. Such suspension shall  
5 end automatically upon any failure to comply with a child support  
6 process. Amounts suspended become fully collectible without further  
7 notice automatically upon failure to comply with a child support  
8 process;

9 (b) Resolve amounts due under this section and provide for  
10 repayment.

11 (15) The secretary may adopt rules to implement this section.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 20.** Section 13 of this act expires February  
13 1, 2021.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 21.** Section 14 of this act takes effect  
15 February 1, 2021.

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