

settlements to be delayed for thirty days. During that time period, Probation must determine whether the recipient has a child support obligation. If so, the award must be paid to Probation for distribution to the custodial parent to satisfy support arrearages, and the balance, if any, paid to the noncustodial parent.

d. Chapter 7, Laws of New Jersey, 1996 - Permits the court to suspend or revoke driver's, professional and occupational licenses of noncustodial parents for failure to pay child support or provide health insurance or if a child support-related warrant is outstanding.

Discussion:

The suspension or revocation of a license must be initiated only as a last resort, after other collection efforts have not succeeded. The objective of the child support program is to collect and distribute funds for families, not to suspend licenses. However, for recalcitrant noncustodial parents, particularly those who are self-employed, license revocations may compel payment of child support. The Committee agrees that the court or licensing agencies, not Probation or the Division of Family Development, should have final authority to enter orders to revoke or suspend licenses. Further, due process requirements, such as adequate notice and an opportunity to contest the license revocation or suspension, must be met.

2. Several bills are pending in the Legislature that will improve the establishment and enforcement of child support orders. The Committee endorses the following bills:

a. A-267 -Replaces the Revised Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act (RURESA) governing interstate cases with the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA). UIFSA offers a simpler, more streamlined method of establishing, enforcing and modifying child support orders when parents live in different states.

Discussion :

The laws governing interstate cases must be reformed. RURESA, the existing interstate legislation in New Jersey, is outdated and complex. Many states have adopted the Uniform Interstate Enforcement of Support Act (UIFSA) Enactment of UIFSA may soon be required by federal law. Key provisions of the statute are:

permits states to send interstate income withholding notices directly to employers in other states without the need to register the order in the responding state or contact that state's child support agency;

- allows states to use long-arm statutes to obtain jurisdiction over nonresident defendants;
- follows a 'one-order, one-time' principle allowing the state with continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to control the case and avoiding the entry of multiple orders in the same case; and
- provides a mechanism for modifying child support orders in interstate cases.

b. A-348 - Directs the Administrative Office of the Courts, in consultation with the Department of Human Services, to establish a child support arrearage payment schedule to ensure that arrears are satisfied before the youngest child reaches the age of majority,

Discussion:

In some cases, arrears have accumulated in such large amounts that payment of the past-due support will extend over the course of many years. Arrears should be satisfied no later than "the date on which the youngest child attains the age of majority. The Committee endorses this legislation provided that instead of Probation using a standard schedule for arrears payments, noncustodial parents should be offered the opportunity to negotiate a reasonable payment plan. If the parent does not contact Probation to set the amount of the payback, Probation should apply a standard payment schedule.

2. The Committee opposes any legislation which would prevent the use of credit reporting to enforce child support if an income withholding order is in effect. The Committee further objects to legislation that would prohibit a state or county agency from examining a noncustodial parent's credit report unless written permission has been granted by that person.,

Discussion:

The income withholding exemption will severely limit the use of credit reporting which has been an-effective tool in child support enforcement. In addition, such a law would conflict with the spirit of federal child support regulation 45 CFR 5303.105 which permits states to report all arrearage in excess of \$1000 to credit report agencies.

3. The Committee supports the introduction of the following legislation:

a. Income Withholding - Specifies that the New Jersey Support Enforcement Act (N.J.S. A. 2A:17-56.7 *seq.*) applies to trade unions. The Committee also