

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	9 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Garrett, Hicks, Nolan, Schaufler, Tomei, Wand, Whisnant, Barker, Krieger
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Olson
Prepared By:	Bill Taylor, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	4/25, 5/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Standardizes at 30 days requests for hearings in child support proceedings. Removes the presumption of an inability to pay child support for those receiving foster care payments. Allows service of notice of a child support proceeding by mail service with delivery confirmation as well as certified mail, return receipt requested. Allows trained Division of Child Support staff to serve process. Allows persons seeking limited support enforcement services such as accounting and disbursement assistance to complete a simpler application form and that they need not apply for full services.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reduce costs
- Reduce paperwork for employers withholding wages for child support

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The time frame for requesting a hearing in a child support matter varies from 14 days to 30 days depending on the type of hearing and the issue involved. This variance may catch many people off-guard. Senate Bill 45-A standardizes the request notice at 30 days. Last session, the legislature inadvertently created the presumption that individuals receiving foster care payments were unable to pay child support regardless of their actual income. Currently, if a person is seeking assistance from the Division of Child Support only for accounting and collection assistance, he or she is required to complete and sign an application for full services. This creates unneeded expense and discourages some people from using the services. If the Division of Child Support were able to use mail with delivery confirmation other than certified mail, it would reportedly save \$19,000 to \$47,000 a biennium. If the Division of Child Support were able to use trained division staff to serve process, it could reportedly save as much as \$500,000 a biennium.