

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	4 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	Dingfelder, Kruse, Roblan, Prozanski
Nays:	Close
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Bill Taylor, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	3/6, 3/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Eliminates the need for a court that had determined child support to review and approve any modification made to this order made by the Oregon Division of Child Support.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Uniform child support guidelines
- Right to appeal the administrative process to court
- Workload issues for Judiciary

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Parents have a legal obligation to pay for the support of their minor children and may have an obligation to do so after the child attains the age of 18 if the child is attending school. The federal Family Support Act of 1988 requires states to establish a formula for child support awards to receive federal funding to aid dependent children. This formula applies to both judicial and administrative child support proceedings. In Oregon, the Division of Child Support of the Oregon Department of Justice (DCS) establishes this formula.

A court may order one or both parents to pay child support as part of a divorce, annulment, or paternity proceeding. DCS may assume responsibility for ensuring that child support is paid and may enforce collection. This is particularly true if the child is receiving public assistance. DCS may also determine the amount of child support through an administrative proceeding. Support orders may be modified and often are when there is a change in economic circumstance such as a loss of a job or increased medical needs of a child. Currently, DCS may modify a court mandated support order. However, the order only becomes effective after review by the issuing court.