

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	9 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Barton, Cameron, Garrett, Hicks, Krieger, Olson, Tomei, Williamson, Barker
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Bill Taylor, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	4/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Clarifies that a dismissal of a judicial domestic relations matter does not dismiss a previously entered child support order issued by the Division of Child Support if the order involved the same parties. Applies to judicial dismissals entered on or after the effective date of this Act.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Legal obligation to pay child support
- Both courts and Oregon Division of Child Support follow the uniform child support guidelines

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 still attending school. The federal Family Support Act of 1988 requires states to establish a formula for child support awards if the state wants 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 proceedings. The DCS may assume responsibility for ensuring that child support is paid, and in turn may enforce collection of child support. This is particularly true if the child is receiving public assistance. The division 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 loss of a job or increased medical needs of a child. Currently the division may modify a court mandated support order. However, the order only becomes effective after review by the issuing court.