

Enrolled
Senate Bill 363

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CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to support enforcement; creating new provisions; amending ORS 25.125; and prescribing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2019 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 25.

SECTION 2. (1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, when an action is pending to modify, terminate, satisfy, vacate or set aside a support order, the administrator may:

(a) Suspend enforcement of the support order; or

(b) Hold some or all moneys received from, or received on behalf of, an obligor under a support order for possible refund, reallocation or redistribution upon resolution of the pending action.

(2) The Department of Justice may suspend enforcement of a support order or hold moneys received from, or received on behalf of, an obligor under a support order as described in subsection (1) of this section if the administrator determines that:

(a) Collection of child support will impair the ability of the obligor with physical custody of all of the parties' children to provide direct support to the children; or

(b) Resolution of the pending action will result in:

(A) A payee receiving more moneys than are due to the payee; or

(B) An adjustment that may cause an overpayment in favor of the state under ORS 25.125

(2).

(3) The administrator shall notify the parties when it suspends enforcement of a support order or holds moneys received under a support order under subsection (1) of this section.

(4) Any party may request an administrative review of the administrator's actions under subsections (1) and (2) of this section by submitting a written request for administrative review to the department. No later than 30 days following the receipt of a written request for administrative review, the department shall conduct an administrative review to determine if the department will resume enforcement of the support order or release moneys received under the support order to a party. A party may appeal the administrator's decision under ORS 183.484.

(5) The department shall adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this section.

SECTION 3. ORS 25.125 is amended to read:

25.125. (1) The Department of Justice may return moneys to an obligor when the department determines that the obligor has paid more moneys than are due under a support obligation. However, when the obligor has an ongoing support obligation, the department may give the obligor credit for the excess amount paid and apply the credit to the future support obligation until the credit is fully used. When the department applies a credit to offset a future support obligation, the department shall so notify the obligee. The notice must inform the obligee that, if the obligee requests, the department will conduct an administrative review to determine if the record keeping and accounting related to the calculation of the credit balance is correct. The department shall conduct the administrative review within 30 days after receiving the request.

(2) An overpayment in favor of the state is created when the Department of Justice, under ORS 25.020, has transmitted moneys [*received from, or on behalf of,*] to any person or entity, including but not limited to an obligor, an obligee or a collection agency, a child support agency of another state or an agency of this state, and:

[(a) The amount transmitted is more than the support obligation requires and the Department of Justice has returned the excess to the obligor under subsection (1) of this section;]

[(b) The Department of Justice has misapplied moneys received; or]

[(c) (a) The amount transmitted is attributable in whole or in part to a tax refund offset collection all or part of which has been taken back by the Internal Revenue Service or the Department of Revenue.]; or

(b) The Department of Justice performed an accounting adjustment that resulted in the refund, reallocation or redistribution of the amount transmitted to the state or any other person or entity.

(3)(a) The person or entity to which the moneys were transmitted owes the amount of the overpayment to the state. The Department of Justice shall:

(A) Attempt to recover the overpayment if it is cost-effective to do so;

(B) Notify the person or entity to whom the overpayment was made that the person or entity owes money to the state and specify the amount of the overpayment to be returned to the department; and

(C) Give the person or entity opportunity to object.

(b) If the person or entity does not file a timely written objection, the overpayment amount determined by the department becomes a liquidated debt and creates an account receivable owed to the department, and the provisions of subsection (4) of this section apply. If the department does not resolve an objection to the person's or entity's satisfaction, an administrative law judge assigned from the Office of Administrative Hearings shall hear the objection. An order by the administrative law judge becomes a liquidated debt and creates an account receivable owed to the department. The person or entity may appeal the decision of an administrative law judge to the circuit court for a hearing de novo.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection, if an agency of this or another state owes the overpayment, the agency shall return the amount of the overpayment to the department without notice and opportunity to object.

(4)(a) The amount of the overpayment specified in subsection (3)(a) of this section is a liquidated debt owed to the state and an associated account receivable. The Department of Justice may recover the debt by obtaining from the obligee [*a voluntary assignment of*] **an agreement to apply all or** a portion of future support payments [*to be applied*] to the account receivable or in any other way permitted by law.

(b) Accounts receivable are considered delinquent for purposes of this subsection and are subject to the provisions of ORS chapter 293 if:

(A) The person or entity fails to make full payment within 90 days of liquidation; or

(B) A period of 90 days elapses without a payment as required by a payment agreement between the department and the obligated person or entity.

(5)(a) In addition to the account receivable created under subsection (2) of this section, a debt in favor of the state and an associated account receivable are created when:

(A) The Department of Justice receives payment for support amounts due from an obligor, a withholder subject to an order to withhold under this chapter or another issuer on behalf of an obligor;

(B) The *[Department of Justice]* **department** transmits the amount to any other person or entity; and

(C) The payment is dishonored or reversed.

(b) When a debt is created under paragraph (a) of this subsection, the amount of money specified in the payment is owed to the state, and the department may collect the debt from one of the following:

(A) The obligor, regardless of who presented the check.

(B) The withholder, if the withholder presented the check.

(C) The other issuer, if another issuer presented the check.

(D) The person or entity to which the amount was transmitted by the department.

(c) The *[Department of Justice]* **department** shall:

(A) Attempt to recover the debt if it is cost-effective to do so;

(B) Notify the obligor, withholder or other issuer who made the payment that the person or entity owes the money to the state; and

(C) Specify the amount of the debt to be paid to the department.

(d) The amount of the debt specified in paragraph (c) of this subsection is a liquidated debt owed to the state and an account receivable. The *[Department of Justice]* **department** may recover the debt and collect on the account receivable in any way permitted under law.

(e) Accounts receivable are considered delinquent for purposes of this subsection and are subject to the provisions of ORS chapter 293 when:

(A) The person or entity fails to make full payment within 90 days of liquidation; or

(B) A period of 90 days elapses without a payment as required by a payment agreement between the department and the obligated person or entity.

[(6)(a) When an action is pending to terminate, vacate or set aside a support order or to modify a support order because of a change in physical custody of the child, the administrator may suspend enforcement of the support order if:]

[(A) Collection of support would result in a credit balance if the motion were granted; or]

[(B) Collection of child support would impair the ability of the obligor with physical custody of all of the parties' children to provide direct support to the children.]

[(b) The obligee may object, within 14 days after the date of the notice of intent to suspend enforcement of the support order, only on the grounds that:]

[(A) The child is not in the physical custody of the obligor;]

[(B) The child is in the physical custody of the obligor without the consent of the obligee; or]

[(C) The basis for the suspension of enforcement is factually incorrect.]

[(c) A party may appeal the administrator's decision to suspend or not to suspend enforcement of the support order under ORS 183.484.]

[(d) As used in this subsection, "credit balance" means that payments have been made in excess of all amounts owed by an obligor for ongoing and past due child support.]

[(7)] (6) The Department of Justice shall adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this section.

SECTION 4. Section 2 of this 2019 Act and the amendments to ORS 25.125 by section 3 of this 2019 Act become operative on January 1, 2020.

SECTION 5. The Department of Justice may take any action before the operative date specified in section 4 of this 2019 Act that is necessary for the department to exercise, on and after the operative date specified in section 4 of this 2019 Act, all of the duties, functions and powers conferred on the department by section 2 of this 2019 Act and the amendments to ORS 25.125 by section 3 of this 2019 Act.

SECTION 6. This 2019 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2019 regular session of the Eightieth Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

Passed by Senate February 28, 2019

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Lori L. Brocker, Secretary of Senate

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Passed by House May 30, 2019

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Received by Governor:

.....M,....., 2019

Approved:

.....M,....., 2019

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Kate Brown, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M,....., 2019

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Bev Clarno, Secretary of State