

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION (CSEA)

Summary of CSEA's Legislation - 2006 Legislative Session

The 2006 Legislative Session yielded legislation that enhances the Child Support Enforcement Administration's "focus on the family". House Bill 272 creates a voluntary procedure to establish a child support obligation in a non-adversarial manner, while at the same time expediting child support payments. House Bill 453 establishes that in certain TANF cases whereby the family has reunited, settlement of child support arrearages for less than the full amount is subject to "the best interest of the child". Likewise House Bill 654 stipulates that it is in the best interest of the State to settle arrearages for less than the full amount if the family has reunited but the obligee is deceased, incapacitated or unavailable to reside with them. Senate Bill 43 gives more options to both parents by which they can give notice of a change of address or employment.

1. **House Bill 272**

Child Support Enforcement – Affidavit of Support

This bill establishes an affidavit of support as a legal finding of a child support obligation and provides for its form, contents, execution, and effect. HB 272 requires the Child Support Enforcement Administration to set the amount of support in accordance with the child support guidelines. The Bill also specifies the authority of the Administration or a court to enforce the affidavit of support. The effective date of this bill is January 1, 2007.

2. **House Bill 453**

Child Support – Settlement of Arrearages – Best Interest of the Child

This bill establishes that CSEA may settle child support arrearages for less than the full amount in certain cases in which an assignment under TANF requirements has been made, subject to the best interest of the child. The effective date of this bill is October 1, 2006.

3. **House Bill 654**

Family Law – Child Support – Settlement of Arrearages

This bill establishes that it is in the best interest of the State for CSEA to settle child support arrearages in certain cases for which an assignment under TANF requirements has been made, the obligor and the child have resided together for at least 12 months, and the obligee is deceased, incapacitated or unavailable to reside with them. The effective date of this bill is October 1, 2006.

4. **Senate Bill 43**

Family Law – Earnings Withholding – Notice of Change of Address or Employment

This bill creates more options whereby an obligor, subject to an earnings withholding order, as well as an obligee, may give the legally required notice of a change of address or employment. The bill also specifies the timeframe within which the notices must be given. The effective date of this bill is October 1, 2006.