

LEGISLATIVE BILL 972

Approved by the Governor April 13, 2000

Introduced by Brown, 6; Beutler, 28; Jensen, 20; Wehrbein, 2

AN ACT relating to child support; to amend sections 42-347, 42-357, 42-358, 42-358.01, 42-358.02, 42-364.01, 42-364.13, 42-364.15, 42-369, 42-371.01, 43-512, 43-512.07, 43-1701, 43-1703, 43-1718, 43-1718.02, 43-1723, 43-1727, 43-1729, and 43-1741, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 43-3341, 43-3342, 43-3344, 43-3346, and 43-3347, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1999; to implement support payments through the State Disbursement Unit and the Title IV-D Division as prescribed; to establish a Customer Service Unit; to create the State Disbursement Advisory Commission; to provide a fee for insufficient funds checks; to provide powers and duties; to define terms; to rename a fund; to harmonize provisions; to provide operative dates; to repeal the original sections; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. (1) The responsibilities of the State Disbursement Unit shall include the following:

(a) Receipt of payments, except payments made pursuant to subdivisions (1)(a) and (1)(b) of section 42-369, and disbursements of such payments to obligees, the department, and the agencies of other states;

(b) Accurate identification of payments;

(c) Prompt disbursement of the obligee's share of any payments;

(d) Furnishing to any obligor or obligee, upon request, timely information on the current status of support order payments; and

(e) One location for employers to send income withholding payments.

(2) The Title IV-D Division shall maintain records of payments for all cases in which support order payments are made to the central office of the State Disbursement Unit using the statewide automated data processing and retrieval system. The Title IV-D Division shall not be required to convert and maintain records of support order payments kept by the clerk of the district court before the operative date of this section or records of payments received by the clerk pursuant to section 42-369.

(3) A true copy of the record of payments, balances, and arrearages maintained by the Title IV-D Division is prima facie evidence, without further proof or foundation, of the balance of any amount of support order payments that are in arrears on the date the State Disbursement Unit becomes operative and of all payments made and disbursed to the person or agency to whom the support order payment is to be made after the date the unit becomes operative. Such evidence is rebuttable only by a specific evidentiary showing to the contrary.

(4) A copy of support payment records maintained by the Title IV-D Division shall be considered to be a true copy of the record when certified by a person designated by the division pursuant to the rules and regulations adopted and promulgated pursuant to this section.

Sec. 2. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the State Disbursement Unit shall disburse all support order payments received within two business days after receipt.

(2) The State Disbursement Unit may delay the disbursement of collections toward arrearages until the resolution of any timely appeal with respect to such arrearages.

Sec. 3. (1) All support orders shall direct payment of support as provided in section 42-369. Any support order issued prior to the operative date of this section for which the payment is to be made to the clerk of the district court shall be deemed to require payment to the State Disbursement Unit after a notice to the obligor is issued.

(2) The unit may collect a fee equal to the actual cost of processing an insufficient funds check. After a payor has originated two insufficient funds checks within a period of six months, the unit may issue a notice to the originator that, for the following year, no checks will be accepted from such person and payments are required to be paid by cash, guaranteed funds, or electronic funds transfer.

Sec. 4. (1) The Title IV-D Division shall establish a Customer Service Unit. In hiring the initial staff for the unit, a hiring preference shall be given to employees of the clerks of the district court. The duties of the Customer Service Unit include, but are not limited to:

(a) Providing account information as well as addressing inquiries made by customers of the State Disbursement Unit; and

(b) Administering two statewide toll-free telephone systems, one for use by employers and one for use by all other customers, to provide responses to inquiries regarding income withholding, the collection and disbursement of support order payments made to the State Disbursement Unit, and other child support enforcement issues, including establishing a call center with sufficient telephone lines, a voice response unit, and adequate personnel available during normal business hours to ensure that responses to inquiries are made by the division's personnel or the division's designee.

(2) The physical location of the Customer Service Unit shall be in Nebraska and shall result in the hiring of a number of new employees or contractor's staff equal to at least one-fourth of one percent of the labor force in the county or counties in which the Customer Service Unit is located. Customer service staff responsible for providing account information related to the State Disbursement Unit may be located at the same location as the State Disbursement Unit.

(3) The Director of Health and Human Services shall issue a report to the Governor and to the Legislature on or before January 31 of each year which discloses information relating to the operation of the State Disbursement Unit for the preceding calendar year including, but not limited to:

(a) The number of transactions processed by the State Disbursement Unit;

(b) The dollar amount collected by the State Disbursement Unit;

(c) The dollar amount disbursed by the State Disbursement Unit;

(d) The percentage of identifiable collections disbursed within two business days;

(e) The percentage of identifiable collections that are matched to the correct case;

(f) The number and dollar amount of insufficient funds checks received by the State Disbursement Unit;

(g) The number and dollar amount of insufficient funds checks received by the State Disbursement Unit for which restitution is subsequently made to the State Disbursement Unit;

(h) The number of incoming telephone calls processed through the Customer Service Unit;

(i) The average length of incoming calls from employers;

(j) The average length of incoming calls from all other customers;

(k) The percentage of incoming calls resulting in abandonment by the customer;

(l) The percentage of incoming calls resulting in a customer receiving a busy signal;

(m) The average holding time for all incoming calls; and

(n) The percentage of calls handled by employees of the Customer Service Unit that are resolved within twenty-four hours.

Sec. 5. (1) The State Disbursement Advisory Commission is created. Commission members shall include:

(a) One district court judge whose jurisdiction includes domestic relations;

(b) One representative of the Governor's office;

(c) One county attorney who works in child support;

(d) One district court clerk;

(e) One child support worker;

(f) One member of the Legislature;

(g) One employer, with more than seventy-five employees, who provides income withholding;

(h) One employer, with less than twenty-five employees, who provides income withholding;

(i) One custodial parent who has a court order to receive child support;

(j) One noncustodial parent who is under a support order to pay child support;

(k) The vendor operating the State Disbursement Unit or his or her designee as an ex officio member; and

(l) The director of the Title IV-D Division or his or her designee as an ex officio member.

(2)(a) The Executive Board of the Legislative Council shall appoint the members of the commission under subdivisions (1)(a) through (1)(j) of this section. The initial members of the commission shall be appointed no later than June 1, 2000. Members shall serve terms of two years, except that the initial terms of members under subdivisions (1)(f) through (1)(j) of this

section shall be one year to provide for staggered terms for commission members. In the case of a vacancy, a successor shall be appointed for the unexpired term by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council. Members whose terms have expired shall continue to serve until their successors have been appointed. The commission shall select a chairperson, annually, from its membership. A chairperson may serve more than one year. Members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

(b) If determined to be necessary to perform the duties of the commission, the commission may hire, contract, or otherwise obtain the services of consultants, researchers, aides, and other necessary support staff with prior approval of the chairperson of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council.

(c) For administrative purposes, the commission shall be managed and administered by the Legislative Council.

(3) The commission shall meet at least quarterly. The duties of the commission shall include, but are not limited to:

(a) Recommending to the department, if appropriate, ways to improve or enhance the effectiveness of the State Disbursement Unit and the Customer Service Unit;

(b) Recommending performance indicators for the State Disbursement Unit and the Customer Service Unit;

(c) Recommending legislation which would clarify and improve state law regarding support for children as it relates to the State Disbursement Unit; and

(d) Presenting an annual report of its activities and recommendations to the Executive Board of the Legislative Council by January 1 of each year.

Sec. 6. Any advertising or promotional materials relating to the State Disbursement Unit may include references to a public office but shall not refer to an officeholder by name.

Sec. 7. Section 42-347, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

42-347. For purposes of sections 42-347 to 42-381, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) Authorized attorney shall mean an attorney (a) employed by the county subject to the approval of the county board, (b) employed by the Department of Health and Human Services, or (c) appointed by the court, who is authorized to investigate and prosecute child and spousal support cases. An authorized attorney shall represent the state as provided in section 43-512.03;

(2) Dissolution of marriage shall mean the termination of a marriage by decree of a court of competent jurisdiction upon a finding that the marriage is irretrievably broken. The term dissolution of marriage shall be considered synonymous with divorce, and whenever the term divorce appears in the statutes it shall mean dissolution of marriage pursuant to sections 42-347 to 42-381;

(3) Legal separation shall mean a decree of a court of competent jurisdiction providing that two persons who have been legally married shall thereafter live separate and apart and providing for any necessary adjustment of property, support, and custody rights between the parties but not dissolving the marriage; and

(4) Spousal support, when used in the context of income withholding or any provisions of law which might lead to income withholding, shall mean alimony or maintenance support for a spouse or former spouse when ordered as a part of an order, decree, or judgment which provides for child support and the child and spouse or former spouse are living in the same household;

(5) State Disbursement Unit has the same meaning as in section 43-3341; and

(6) Support order has the same meaning as in section 43-1717.

Sec. 8. Section 42-357, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

42-357. The court may order either party to pay to the clerk of the district court or to the State Disbursement Unit, as provided in section 42-369, a sum of money for the temporary support and maintenance of the other party and minor children if any are affected by the action and to enable such party to prosecute or defend the action. The court may make such order after service of process and claim for temporary allowances is made in the petition or by motion by the petitioner or by the respondent in a responsive pleading; but no such order shall be entered before three days after notice of hearing has been served on the other party or notice waived. During the pendency of

any proceeding under sections 42-347 to 42-381 after the petition is filed, upon application of either party and if the accompanying affidavit of the party or his or her agent shows to the court that the party is entitled thereto, the court may issue ex parte orders (1) restraining any person from transferring, encumbering, hypothecating, concealing, or in any way disposing of real or personal property except in the usual course of business or for the necessities of life, and the party against whom such order is directed shall upon order of the court account for all unusual expenditures made after such order is served upon him or her, (2) enjoining any party from molesting or disturbing the peace of the other party or any minor children affected by the action, and (3) determining the temporary custody of any minor children of the marriage, except that no restraining order enjoining any party from molesting or disturbing the peace of any minor child shall issue unless, at the same time, the court determines that the party requesting such order shall have temporary custody of such minor child. Ex parte orders issued pursuant to subdivision (1) of this section shall remain in force for no more than ten days or until a hearing is held thereon, whichever is earlier. After motion, notice to the party, and hearing, the court may order either party excluded from the premises occupied by the other upon a showing that physical or emotional harm would otherwise result. Any restraining order issued excluding either party from the premises occupied by the other shall specifically set forth the location of the premises and shall be served upon the adverse party by the sheriff in the manner prescribed for serving a summons, and a return thereof shall be filed in the court. Any person who knowingly violates such an order after service shall be guilty of a Class II misdemeanor. In the event a restraining order enjoining any party from molesting or disturbing the peace of any minor children is issued, upon application and affidavit setting out the reason therefor, the court shall schedule a hearing within seventy-two hours to determine whether the order regarding the minor children shall remain in force. Section 25-1064 shall not apply to the issuance of ex parte orders pursuant to this section. Any judge of the county court or district court may grant a temporary ex parte order in accordance with this section.

Sec. 9. Section 42-358, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

42-358. (1) The court may appoint an attorney to protect the interests of any minor children of the parties. Such attorney shall be empowered to make independent investigations and to cause witnesses to appear and testify on matters pertinent to the welfare of the children. The court shall by order fix the fee, including disbursements, for such attorney, which amount shall be taxed as costs and paid by the parties as ordered. If the court finds that the party responsible is indigent, the court may order the county to pay the costs.

(2) Following entry of any decree, the court having jurisdiction over the minor children of the parties may at any time appoint an attorney, as friend of the court, to initiate contempt proceedings for failure of any party to comply with an order of the court directing such party to pay temporary or permanent child support. The county attorney or authorized attorney may be appointed by the court for the purposes provided in this section, in which case the county attorney or authorized attorney shall represent the state.

(3) ~~The clerk of each district court shall maintain child support orders and delinquency records by the sums due to the court-ordered payee, except as provided in section 43-512.07, in each case docketed in which child support is fixed by order of the court records of support orders. The Title IV-D Division shall maintain support order payment records pursuant to section 1 of this act and the clerk of each district court shall maintain records of payments received pursuant to section 42-369 and section 1 of this act. For support orders in all cases issued before September 6, 1991, and for support orders issued or modified on or after September 6, 1991, in cases in which no party has applied for services under Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act, as amended, each month the clerk State Disbursement Unit shall certify all cases in which the court-ordered child support or spousal support support order payment is delinquent in an amount equal to the support due and payable for a one-month period of time to the judge presiding over domestic relations cases and to the county attorney or authorized attorney. A rebuttable presumption of contempt shall be established if a prima facie showing is made that the court-ordered child or spousal support is delinquent. In cases in which one of the parties receives services under Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act, as amended, the clerk State Disbursement Unit shall certify all such delinquent support order payments orders issued or modified on or after September 6, 1991, to the county attorney, or the authorized attorney. 7 or the Department of Health and Human Services.~~

In each case certified, if income withholding has not been

implemented it shall be implemented pursuant to the Income Withholding for Child Support Act. If income withholding is not feasible and no other action is pending for the collection of support payments, the court shall appoint an attorney to commence contempt of court proceedings. If the county attorney or authorized attorney consents, he or she may be appointed for such purpose. The contempt proceeding shall be instituted within ten days following appointment, and the case shall be diligently prosecuted to completion. The court shall by order fix the fee, including disbursements, for such attorney, which amount shall be taxed as costs and paid by the parties as ordered. Any fees allowed for the services of any county attorney or authorized attorney shall be paid to the Department of Health and Human Services when there is an assignment of support to the department pursuant to section 43-512.07 or when an application for child support services is on file with a county attorney or authorized attorney. If the court finds the party responsible is indigent, the court may order the county to pay the costs.

(4) If, at the hearing, the person owing child or spousal support is called for examination as an adverse party and such person refuses to answer upon the ground that his or her testimony may be incriminating, the court may, upon the motion of the county attorney or authorized attorney, require the person to answer and produce the evidence. In such a case the evidence produced shall not be admissible in any criminal case against such person nor shall any evidence obtained because of the knowledge gained by such evidence be so admissible.

(5) The court may order access to all revenue information maintained by the Department of Revenue or other agencies concerning the income of persons liable or who pursuant to this section and sections 42-358.08 and 42-821 may be found liable to pay child or spousal support payments.

(6) Any person aggrieved by a determination of the court may appeal such decision to the Court of Appeals.

Sec. 10. Section 42-358.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

42-358.01. Records of delinquencies in permanent child support order payments shall be kept by the Title IV-D Division or by the clerks of the district courts covering a recording period of nineteen years. Such recording period during the first year that sections 42-358 to 42-358.07 and 42-371 are effective shall commence with support decrees dated January 1, 1957 pursuant to their responsibilities under law.

Sec. 11. Section 42-358.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

42-358.02. (1) All delinquent child support payments shall draw interest at the rate specified in section 45-103 in effect on the date of the most recent order or decree. Such interest shall be computed as simple interest.

(2) All child support payments shall become delinquent the day after they are due and owing, except that no obligor whose child support payments are automatically withheld from his or her paycheck shall be regarded or reported as being delinquent or in arrears if (a) any delinquency or arrearage is solely caused by a disparity between the schedule of the obligor's regular pay dates and the scheduled date the child support is due, (b) the total amount of child support to be withheld from the paychecks of the obligor and the amount ordered by the support order are the same on an annual basis, and (c) the automatic deductions for child support are continuous and occurring. Interest shall not accrue until thirty days after such payments are delinquent.

(3) The court shall order the determination of the amount of interest due, and such interest shall be payable in the same manner as the support payments upon which the interest accrues subject to subsection (2) of this section or unless it is waived by agreement of the parties. ~~The clerk of the district court shall compute interest and identify delinquencies pursuant to this section and shall report such information to the court and to the county attorney or authorized attorney.~~

(4) The clerk of the district court shall credit child support payments first to the payment currently due, second toward any delinquency owing, and third toward the interest on the delinquency. The Title IV-D Division shall compute interest and identify delinquencies pursuant to this section on the payments received by the State Disbursement Unit pursuant to section 42-369 and shall report such information to the court and to the county attorney or authorized attorney.

(4) Support order payments shall be credited in the following manner:

(a) First, to the payments due for the current month in the following order: Child support payments, then spousal support payments, and

lastly medical support payments;

(b) Second, toward any payment arrearage owing, in the following order: Child support payment arrearage, then spousal support payment arrearage, and lastly medical support payment arrearage; and

(c) Third, toward the interest on any payment arrearage, in the following order: Child support payment arrearage interest, then spousal support payment arrearage interest, and lastly medical support payment arrearage interest.

(5) Interest which may have accrued prior to September 6, 1991, shall not be affected or altered by changes to this section which take effect on such date. All delinquent child support payments and all decrees entered prior to such date shall draw interest at the effective rate as prescribed by this section commencing as of such date.

Sec. 12. Section 42-364.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

42-364.01. In any proceeding when a district court, county court, or separate juvenile court has ordered, temporarily or permanently, a parent, referred to as parent-employee in sections 42-364.01 to 42-364.12, to pay any amount for the support of a minor child, that court shall, following application, hearing, and findings, as required by sections 42-364.02 to 42-364.12, order the employer of such parent:

(1) To withhold, from the parent-employee's nonexempt, disposable earnings presently due and to be due in the future, such amounts as shall reduce and satisfy the parent-employee's previous arrearage in child support payments arising from the parent-employee's failure to comply fully with an order previously entered to pay child support, the parent-employee's obligation to pay child support as ordered by the court as such obligation accrues in the future; ~~7 and, when necessary, the attorney's fee awarded in such proceeding;~~

(2) To pay to the parent-employee, on his or her regularly scheduled payday such earnings then due which are not ordered withheld;

(3) To deduct from the sums so withheld an amount set by the court, but not to exceed ~~five dollars~~ two dollars and fifty cents in any calendar month, as compensation for the employer's reasonable cost incurred in complying with such order;

(4) To remit ~~at least once each calendar month within seven calendar days after the date the obligor is paid~~ such sums withheld, less the deduction as allowed by the court pursuant to subdivision (3) of this section, to the ~~clerk of the court entering such order~~ State Disbursement Unit;

(5) To refrain from dismissing, demoting, disciplining, and in any way penalizing the parent-employee on account of the proceeding to collect child support, on account of any order or orders entered by the court in such proceeding, and on account of employer compliance with such order or orders; and

(6) To notify in writing the clerk of the court entering such order of the termination of the employment of such parent-employee, the last-known address of the parent-employee, and the name and address of the parent-employee's new employer, if known, and to provide such written notification within thirty days after the termination of employment.

Sec. 13. Section 42-364.13, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

42-364.13. (1) Any order for support entered by the court shall specifically provide that any person ordered to pay a judgment shall be required to furnish to the clerk of the district court his or her address, telephone number, and social security number, the name of his or her employer, whether or not such person has access to employer-related health insurance coverage and, if so, the health insurance policy information, and any other information the court deems relevant until such judgment is paid in full. The person shall also be required to advise the clerk of any changes in such information between the time of entry of the decree and the payment of the judgment in full. If both parents are parties to the action, such order shall provide that each be required to furnish to the clerk of the district court ~~whether he or she has access to employer-related health insurance coverage and, if so, the health insurance policy information~~ all of the information required by this subsection. Failure to comply with this section shall be punishable by contempt.

(2) All support orders entered by the court shall include the birthdate and social security number of any child for whom the order requires the provision of support.

(3) Until the Title IV-D Division has operative the statewide automated data processing and retrieval system necessary for centralized collection and disbursement of support order payments:

(a) If any case contains an order or judgment for child, medical, or spousal support, the order shall include the following statements:

In the event (respondent or petitioner) fails to pay any child, medical, or spousal support payment, as such failure is certified each month by the district court clerk in cases in which court-ordered support is delinquent in an amount equal to the support due and payable for a one-month period of time, he or she shall be subject to income withholding and may be required to appear in court on a date to be determined by the court and show cause why such payment was not made. In the event that the (respondent or petitioner) fails to pay and appear as ordered, a warrant shall be issued for his or her arrest.

~~(3)~~ (b) If the court orders income withholding regardless of whether or not payments are in arrears pursuant to section 43-1718.01 or 43-1718.02, the statement in this subsection ~~(2) of this section~~ may be altered to read as follows:

In the event (respondent or petitioner) fails to pay any child, medical, or spousal support payment, as such failure is certified each month by the district court clerk in cases in which court-ordered support is delinquent in an amount equal to the support due and payable for a one-month period of time, he or she may be required to appear in court on a date to be determined by the court and show cause why such payment was not made. In the event that the (respondent or petitioner) fails to pay and appear as ordered, a warrant shall be issued for his or her arrest.

(4) When the Title IV-D Division has operative the statewide automated data processing and retrieval system necessary for centralized collection and disbursement of support order payments:

(a) If any case contains an order or judgment for child, medical, or spousal support, the order shall include the following statements:

In the event (respondent or petitioner) fails to pay any child, medical, or spousal support payment, as such failure is certified each month by the State Disbursement Unit in cases in which court-ordered support is delinquent in an amount equal to the support due and payable for a one-month period of time, he or she shall be subject to income withholding and may be required to appear in court on a date to be determined by the court and show cause why such payment was not made. In the event that the (respondent or petitioner) fails to pay and appear as ordered, a warrant shall be issued for his or her arrest.

(b) If the court orders income withholding regardless of whether or not payments are in arrears pursuant to section 43-1718.01 or 43-1718.02, the statement in this subsection may be altered to read as follows:

In the event (respondent or petitioner) fails to pay any child, medical, or spousal support payment, as such failure is certified each month by the State Disbursement Unit in cases in which court-ordered support is delinquent in an amount equal to the support due and payable for a one-month period of time, he or she may be required to appear in court on a date to be determined by the court and show cause why such payment was not made. In the event that the (respondent or petitioner) fails to pay and appear as ordered, a warrant shall be issued for his or her arrest.

Sec. 14. Section 42-364.15, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

42-364.15. In any proceeding when a court has ordered a parent to pay, temporarily or permanently, any amount ~~to the clerk of the district court~~ for the support of a minor child and in the same proceeding has ordered visitation with any minor child on behalf of such parent the court shall enforce its visitation orders as follows:

(1) Upon the filing of a motion which is accompanied by an affidavit stating that either parent has unreasonably withheld or interfered with the exercise of the court order after notice to the parent and hearing, the court shall enter such orders as are reasonably necessary to enforce rights of either parent including the modification of previous court orders relating to visitation. The court may use contempt powers to enforce its court orders relating to visitation. The court may require either parent to file a bond or otherwise give security to insure his or her compliance with court order provisions.

(2) Costs, including reasonable attorney's fees, may be taxed against a party found to be in contempt pursuant to this section.

Sec. 15. Section 42-369, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

42-369. (1) All orders, decrees, or judgments for temporary or permanent support payments, alimony, or modification of support payments or alimony shall direct the payment of such sums to be made commencing on the first day of each month ~~to the clerk of the district court~~ for the use of the

persons for whom the support payments or alimony have been awarded. Such payments shall be made to the clerk of the district court (a) when the order, decree, or judgment is for spousal support, alimony, or maintenance support and the order, decree, or judgment does not also provide for child support, and (b) when the payment constitutes child care or day care expenses, unless payments under subdivisions (1)(a) or (1)(b) of this section are ordered to be made directly to the obligee. All other support order payments shall be made to the State Disbursement Unit, except payments made pursuant to subdivisions (1)(a) and (1)(b) of this section. In all cases in which income withholding has been implemented pursuant to the Income Withholding for Child Support Act or sections 42-364.01 to 42-364.14, support order payments shall be made to the State Disbursement Unit. The court may order such payment to be in cash or guaranteed funds.

(2) If the person against whom an order, decree, or judgment for child support is entered or the custodial parent or guardian has health insurance available to him or her through an employer or organization which may extend to cover any children affected by the order, ~~or~~ decree, or judgment the court shall require the option to be exercised by either party for additional coverage which favors the best interests of the child or children affected ~~by the order or judgment~~ unless the parties have otherwise stipulated in writing or to the court.

(3) Such an order, ~~or~~ decree, or judgment for support may include the providing of necessary shelter, food, clothing, care, medical support as defined in section 43-512, medical attention, expenses of confinement, education expenses, funeral expenses, and any other expense the court may deem reasonable and necessary.

(4) Orders, decrees, and judgments for temporary or permanent support or alimony shall be filed with the clerk of the district court and have the force and effect of judgments when entered. The clerk and the State Disbursement Unit ~~and the clerk~~ shall disburse all payments received as directed by the court and as provided in ~~section~~ sections 42-358.02 and 43-512.07. Records shall be kept of all funds received and disbursed by the clerk ~~and the unit~~ and shall be open to inspection by the parties and their attorneys.

(5) Unless otherwise specified by the court, an equal and proportionate share of any child support awarded shall be presumed to be payable on behalf of each child subject to the order, decree, or judgment for purposes of an assignment under section 43-512.07.

Sec. 16. Section 42-371.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

42-371.01. (1) An obligor's duty to pay child support for a child terminates when (a) the child reaches nineteen years of age, (b) the child marries, (c) the child dies, or (d) the child is emancipated by a court of competent jurisdiction, unless the court order for child support specifically extends child support after such circumstances.

(2) The termination of child support does not relieve the obligor from the duty to pay any unpaid child support obligations owed or in arrears.

(3) The obligor may provide written application for termination of a child support order when the child being supported reaches nineteen years of age, marries, dies, or is otherwise emancipated. The application shall be filed with the clerk of the district court where child support ~~is paid~~ was ordered. A certified copy of the birth certificate, marriage license, death certificate, or court order of emancipation shall accompany the application for termination of the child support. The clerk of the district court shall send notice of the filing of the child support termination application to the last-known address of the obligee. The notice shall inform the obligee that if he or she does not file a written objection within thirty days after the date the notice was mailed, child support may be terminated without further notice. The court shall terminate child support if no written objection has been filed within thirty days after the date the clerk's notice to the obligee was mailed, the forms and procedures have been complied with, and the court believes that a hearing on the matter is not required.

(4) The State Court Administrator shall develop uniform procedures and forms to be used to terminate child support.

Sec. 17. Section 43-512, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-512. (1) Any dependent child as defined in section 43-504 or any relative or eligible caretaker of such a dependent child may file with the Department of Health and Human Services a written application for financial assistance for such child on forms furnished by the department.

(2) The department, through its agents and employees, shall make such investigation pursuant to the application as it deems necessary or as may

be required by the county attorney or authorized attorney. If the investigation or the application for financial assistance discloses that such child has a parent or stepparent who is able to contribute to the support of such child and has failed to do so, a copy of the finding of such investigation and a copy of the application shall immediately be filed with the county attorney or authorized attorney.

(3) The department shall make a finding as to whether the application referred to in subsection (1) of this section should be allowed or denied. If the department finds that the application should be allowed, the department shall further find the amount of monthly assistance which should be paid with reference to such dependent child. Except as may be otherwise provided, payments shall be made by state warrant, and the amount of payments shall not exceed three hundred dollars per month when there is but one dependent child and one eligible caretaker in any home, plus an additional seventy-five dollars per month on behalf of each additional eligible person. No payments shall be made for amounts totaling less than ten dollars per month except in the recovery of overpayments.

(4) The amount which shall be paid as assistance with respect to a dependent child shall be based in each case upon the conditions disclosed by the investigation made by the department. An appeal shall lie from the finding made in each case to the Director of Health and Human Services. Such appeal may be taken by any taxpayer or by any relative of such child. Proceedings for and upon appeal shall be conducted in the same manner as provided for in section 68-1016.

(5)(a) For the purpose of preventing dependency, the director shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations providing for services to former and potential recipients of aid to dependent children and medical assistance benefits. The director shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations establishing programs and cooperating with programs of work incentive, work experience, job training, and education. The provisions of this section with regard to determination of need, amount of payment, maximum payment, and method of payment shall not be applicable to families or children included in such programs.

(b) If a recipient of aid to dependent children becomes ineligible for aid to dependent children as a result of increased hours of employment or increased income from employment after having participated in any of the programs established pursuant to subdivision (a) of this subsection, the recipient may be eligible for the following benefits, as provided in rules and regulations of the department in accordance with sections 402, 417, and 1925 of the federal Social Security Act, as amended, Public Law 100-485, in order to help the family during the transition from public assistance to independence:

(i) An additional aid to dependent children payment in the amount of one-half of the previous month's aid to dependent children grant;

(ii) Child care as provided in subdivision (1)(c) of section 68-1724; and

(iii) Except as may be provided in accordance with subsection (2) of section 68-1713 and subdivision (1)(c) of section 68-1724, medical assistance for up to twelve months after the month the recipient becomes employed and is no longer eligible for aid to dependent children.

(6) For purposes of sections 43-512 to 43-512.10 and 43-512.12 to 43-512.18:

(a) Authorized attorney shall mean an attorney, employed by the county subject to the approval of the county board, employed by the department, or appointed by the court, who is authorized to investigate and prosecute child, spousal, and medical support cases. An authorized attorney shall represent the state as provided in section 43-512.03;

(b) Child support shall be defined as provided in section 43-1705;

(c) Medical support shall include all expenses associated with the birth of a child and, if required pursuant to section 42-369 or 43-290, medical and hospital insurance coverage or membership in a health maintenance organization or preferred provider organization; ~~and~~

~~(d)~~ (d) Spousal support shall be defined as provided in section ~~42-347~~ 43-1715;

(e) State Disbursement Unit shall be defined as provided in section 43-3341; and

(f) Support shall be defined as provided in section 43-3313.

Sec. 18. Section 43-512.07, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-512.07. (1) Any action, payment, aid, or assistance listed in subdivisions (a) through (c) of this subsection shall constitute an assignment by operation of law to the Department of Health and Human Services of any

right to spousal or medical support when ordered by the court and to child support whether or not ordered by the court which a recipient may have in his or her own behalf or on behalf of any other person for whom an applicant receives such payments, aid, or assistance, including any accrued arrearages as of the time of the assignment:

(a) Application for and acceptance of one or more aid to dependent children payments by a parent, another relative, or a custodian;

(b) Receipt of aid by or on behalf of any dependent child as defined in section 43-504; or

(c) Receipt of aid from child welfare funds.

The department shall be entitled to retain such child, spousal, or other support up to the amount of payments, aid, or assistance provided to a recipient. For purposes of this section, the right to receive current and past-due child support shall belong to the child and the assignment shall be effective as to any such support even if the recipient of the payments, aid, or assistance is not the same as the payee of court-ordered support.

(2) After notification of the ~~clerk of the district court~~ State Disbursement Unit receiving the child, spousal, or other support payments made pursuant to a court order that the person for whom such support is ordered is a recipient of payments, aid, or assistance listed in subsection (1) of this section, the department shall also give notice to the payee named in the court order at his or her last-known address.

(3) Upon written or other notification from the department or from another state of such assignment of child, spousal, or other support payments, the ~~clerk of the district court~~ State Disbursement Unit shall transmit the support payments received to the department or the other state without the requirement of a subsequent order by the court. The ~~clerk of the district court~~ State Disbursement Unit shall continue to transmit the support payments for as long as the payments, aid, or assistance listed in subsection (1) of this section continues.

(4) Any court-ordered child, spousal, or other support remaining unpaid during the period of the assignment shall constitute a debt and a continuing assignment at the termination of payments, aid, or assistance listed in subsection (1) of this section, collectible by the department or other state as reimbursement for such payments, aid, or assistance. However, any assignment pursuant to subdivisions (1)(b) and (1)(c) of this section shall be limited to the amount of child support due for any months during which such payments, aid, or assistance was made. The continuing assignment shall only apply to support payments made during a calendar period which exceed the specific amount of support ordered for that period. When payments, aid, or assistance listed in subsection (1) of this section have ceased and upon notice by the department or the other state, the ~~clerk of the district court~~ State Disbursement Unit shall continue to transmit to the department or the other state any support payments received on arrearages in excess of the amount of support ordered for that specific calendar period until notified by the department or the other state that the debt has been paid in full, except that any amount of support arrearages that has accrued or accrues after termination of payments, aid, or assistance listed in subsection (1) of this section shall be paid first by the ~~clerk unit~~ to the person to whom support is due before any reimbursement is made to the department or the other state.

Sec. 19. Section 43-1701, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-1701. Sections 43-1701 to 43-1743 and section 21 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Income Withholding for Child Support Act.

Sec. 20. Section 43-1703, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-1703. For purposes of the Income Withholding for Child Support Act, unless the context otherwise requires, the definitions found in sections 43-1704 to 43-1717 and section 21 of this act shall be used.

Sec. 21. State Disbursement Unit shall have the same meaning as found in section 43-3341.

Sec. 22. Section 43-1718, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-1718. A support order shall constitute and shall operate as an assignment, to the ~~clerk of the district court designated to receive the payment~~ State Disbursement Unit, of that portion of an obligor's income as will be sufficient to pay the amount ordered for child, spousal, or medical support and shall be binding on any existing or future employer or other payor of the obligor. The assignment shall take effect as provided in section 43-1718.01 or 43-1718.02 or on the date on which the payments are delinquent in an amount equal to the support due and payable for a one-month period of

time, whichever is earlier. No obligor whose child support payments are automatically withheld from his or her paycheck shall be regarded or reported as being delinquent or in arrears if (1) any delinquency or arrearage is solely caused by a disparity between the schedule of the obligor's regular pay dates and the scheduled date the child support is due, (2) the total amount of child support to be withheld from the paychecks of the obligor and the amount ordered by the support order are the same on an annual basis, and (3) the automatic deductions for child support are continuous and occurring.

An assignment shall have priority as against any attachment, execution, or other assignment unless otherwise specifically ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction.

~~The clerk of the district court in each county~~ Title IV-D Division of the Department of Health and Human Services or its designee shall be responsible for administering income withholding. ~~The clerk of the district court in~~ In administering income withholding, the Title IV-D Division or its designee shall keep accurate records to document, track, and monitor support payments.

Sec. 23. Section 43-1718.02, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-1718.02. (1) In any case in which services are not provided under Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act, as amended, and a support order has been issued or modified on or after July 1, 1994, the obligor's income shall be subject to income withholding regardless of whether or not payments pursuant to such order are in arrears, and the court shall require such income withholding in its order unless:

(a) One of the parties demonstrates and the court finds that there is good cause not to require immediate income withholding; or

(b) A written agreement between the parties providing an alternative arrangement is incorporated into the support order.

(2) If the court pursuant to subsection (1) of this section orders income withholding regardless of whether or not payments are in arrears, the obligor shall prepare a notice to withhold income. The notice to withhold income shall be substantially similar to a prototype prepared by the Department of Health and Human Services and made available by the department to the State Court Administrator and the clerks of the district courts. The notice to withhold shall direct:

(a) That the employer or other payor shall withhold from the obligor's disposable income the amount stated in the notice to withhold for the purpose of satisfying the obligor's ongoing obligation for support payments as they become due and if there are arrearages, reducing such arrearages in child, spousal, or medical support payments arising from the obligor's failure to fully comply with a support order;

(b) That the employer or other payor shall pay to the obligor, on his or her regularly scheduled payday, such income then due which is not required to be withheld as stated on the notice or pursuant to any court order;

(c) That the employer or other payor shall not withhold more than the maximum amount permitted to be withheld under section 303(b) of the federal Consumer Credit Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. 1673(b)(2)(A) and (B), and the amount withheld to satisfy an arrearage of child, spousal, or medical support when added to the amount withheld to pay current support and the fee provided for in subdivision (2)(d) of this section shall not exceed such maximum amount;

(d) That the employer or other payor may assess an additional administrative fee from the obligor's disposable income not to exceed two dollars and fifty cents in any calendar month as compensation for the employer's or other payor's reasonable cost incurred in complying with the notice;

(e) That the employer or other payor shall remit, within seven days after the date the obligor is paid and in the manner specified in the notice, the income withheld, less the deduction allowed as an administrative fee by subdivision (2)(d) of this section, to the ~~clerk of the district court designated in the notice~~ State Disbursement Unit and shall notify ~~such clerk~~ the unit of the date such income was withheld;

(f) That the notice to withhold income shall terminate with respect to the employer or other payor without any court action or action by the obligor thirty days after the obligor ceases employment with or is no longer entitled to income from such employer or other payor;

(g) That the employer or other payor may combine amounts required to be withheld from the income of two or more obligors in a single payment to ~~each clerk designated in a notice to withhold income~~ the unit if the portion of the single payment which is attributable to each individual obligor is

separately identified;

(h) That an employer or other payor who fails to withhold and remit income of an obligor after receiving proper notice or who discriminates, demotes, disciplines, or terminates an employee or payee after receiving a notice to withhold income shall be subject to the penalties prescribed in subsections (4) and (5) of this section; and

(i) That if the employer or other payor receives more than one notice to withhold income of a single obligor and the amount of income available to be withheld pursuant to the limits specified in subdivision (c) of this subsection is insufficient to satisfy the total support amount certified in the notices, the income available shall first be applied to current support. If the total amount of income available to be withheld is insufficient to satisfy the total amount of current support certified by the notices, the employer or other payor shall withhold for each notice the proportion that the amount of the current support certified in such notice bears to the total amount of current support certified in all notices received for the obligor. Any remaining income available to be withheld after current support is satisfied for all notices shall be applied to arrearages. If arrearages are certified in more than one notice, the employer or other payor shall withhold for each notice the proportion that the amount of the arrearage certified in such notice bears to the total amount of arrearage certified in all notices received for the obligor.

Compliance with the order by the employer or other payor shall operate as a discharge of the employer's or other payor's liability to the obligor as to the portion of the obligor's income withheld.

(3) The obligor shall deliver the notice to withhold income to his or her current employer or other payor and provide a copy of such notice to the clerk of the district court.

(4) Any employer or other payor who fails to withhold and remit any income of an obligor receiving income from the employer or other payor, after proper notice as provided in subsection (2) of this section, shall be required to pay to the ~~clerk of the district court~~ unit the amount specified in the notice.

(5) An employer or other payor shall not use an order or notice to withhold income or order or the possibility of income withholding as a basis for (a) discrimination in hiring, (b) demotion of an employee or payee, (c) disciplinary action against an employee or payee, or (d) termination of an employee or payee.

Upon application by the obligor and after a hearing on the matter, the court may impose a civil fine of up to five hundred dollars for each violation of this subsection.

An employer or other payor who violates this subsection shall be required to make full restitution to the aggrieved employee or payee, including reinstatement and backpay.

(6) When an obligor ceases employment with or is no longer entitled to income from an employer or other payor, the notice to withhold income shall not cease to operate against the obligor and income withholding shall continue to apply to any subsequent employment or income of the obligor. The notice to withhold income shall terminate with respect to the employer or other payor without any court action or action by the obligor thirty days after the obligor ceases employment with or is no longer entitled to income from such employer or other payor. A notice to withhold income shall also terminate when the child, spousal, or medical support obligation terminates and all past-due support has been paid, in which case the obligor shall notify the employer or other payor to cease withholding income.

(7) A notice to withhold income may be modified or revoked by a court of competent jurisdiction as a result of modification of the support order. A notice to withhold income may also be modified or revoked by a court of competent jurisdiction, for other good cause shown, after notice and a hearing on the issue.

(8) The obligee or obligor may file an action in district court to enforce this section.

(9) If after an order is issued in any case under this section the case becomes one in which services are provided under Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act, as amended, the county attorney or authorized attorney or the Director of Health and Human Services shall implement income withholding as otherwise provided in the Income Withholding for Child Support Act.

Sec. 24. Section 43-1723, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-1723. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the county attorney, the authorized attorney, or the department shall notify the

obligor's employer or other payor, by first-class mail or by electronic means, within the time determined by the department which shall comply with the requirements of Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act, as amended. The notice shall specify the basis for the assignment of income and shall direct:

(1) That the employer or other payor shall withhold from the obligor's disposable income the amount certified by the county attorney, the authorized attorney, or the department for the purpose of reducing and satisfying the obligor's (a) previous arrearage in child, spousal, or medical support payments arising from the obligor's failure to fully comply with a support order previously entered and (b) ongoing obligation for support payments as they become due;

(2) That the employer or other payor shall implement income withholding no later than the first pay period that occurs after fourteen days following the date on the notice;

(3) That the employer or other payor shall pay to the obligor, on his or her regularly scheduled payday, such income then due which is not certified to be withheld pursuant to section 43-1722 or any court order;

(4) That the employer or other payor may assess an additional administrative fee from the obligor's disposable income not to exceed two dollars and fifty cents in any calendar month as compensation for the employer's or other payor's reasonable cost incurred in complying with the notice;

(5) That the employer or other payor shall remit, within seven days after the date the obligor is paid and in the manner specified in the notice, the income withheld, less the deduction allowed as an administrative expense by subdivision (4) of this section, to the ~~clerk of the district court~~ State Disbursement Unit as designated in the notice and shall notify ~~such clerk~~ the unit of the date such income was withheld;

(6) That the employer or other payor shall notify the county attorney, the authorized attorney, or the department in writing of the termination of the employment or income of the obligor, the last-known address of the obligor, and the name and address of the obligor's new employer or other payor, if known, and shall provide such written notification within thirty days after the termination of employment or income;

(7) That income withholding is binding on the employer or other payor until further notice by the county attorney, the authorized attorney, or the department;

(8) That the employer or other payor may combine amounts required to be withheld from the income of two or more obligors in a single payment to ~~each clerk the unit~~ as designated in an income withholding notice if the portion of the single payment which is attributable to each individual obligor is separately identified;

(9) That an employer or other payor who fails to withhold and remit income of an obligor after receiving proper notice or who discriminates, demotes, disciplines, or terminates an employee or payee after receiving an income withholding notice shall be subject to the penalties prescribed in sections 43-1724 and 43-1725; and

(10) That if the employer or other payor receives more than one notice to withhold income of a single obligor and the amount of income available to be withheld pursuant to the limits specified in section 43-1722 is insufficient to satisfy the total support amount certified in the notices, the income available shall first be applied to current support. If the total amount of income available to be withheld is insufficient to satisfy the total amount of current support certified by the notices, the employer or other payor shall withhold for each notice the proportion that the amount of the current support certified in such notice bears to the total amount of current support certified in all notices received for the obligor. Any remaining income available to be withheld after current support is satisfied for all notices shall be applied to arrearages. If arrearages are certified in more than one notice, the employer or other payor shall withhold for each notice the proportion that the amount of the arrearage certified in such notice bears to the total amount of arrearage certified in all notices received for the obligor.

Compliance with the order by the employer or other payor shall operate as a discharge of the employer's or other payor's liability to the obligor as to the portion of the obligor's income withheld. The county attorney, the authorized attorney, or the department need not notify the Commissioner of Labor as a payor if the commissioner is withholding for child support from the obligor under section 48-647 for the same support order.

Sec. 25. Section 43-1727, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-1727. (1) An income withholding notice may be modified or revoked by a court of competent jurisdiction or by the county attorney, the authorized attorney, or the department as a result of a review conducted pursuant to sections 43-512.12 to 43-512.18. An income withholding notice may also be modified or revoked by a court of competent jurisdiction, for other good cause shown, after notice and a hearing on the issue. An income withholding notice may also be modified or revoked by the county attorney, the authorized attorney, or the department as provided in subsection (2) of this section or for other good cause. Payment by the obligor of overdue support, other than through income withholding, after receipt of notice of income withholding shall not by itself constitute good cause for modifying or revoking an income withholding notice.

(2) When income withholding has been implemented and, as a result, a support delinquency has been eliminated, the ~~clerk of the district court~~ Title IV-D Division or its designee shall notify the county attorney, the authorized attorney, or the department. Upon receipt of such notification, the county attorney, the authorized attorney, or the department shall modify the income withholding notice to require income withholding for current support only and shall notify the employer or other payor of the change in the same manner as provided in section 43-1723.

Sec. 26. Section 43-1729, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-1729. Upon receiving a foreign support order and the documentation specified in section 43-1730 from an agency of another jurisdiction, an obligee, an obligor, or an attorney for either, the department shall transmit such order and documents to be filed with the clerk of the district court in the jurisdiction within this state in which income withholding is being sought. The clerk of the district court shall accept the documents filed, and such acceptance shall constitute entry of the foreign support order for purposes of income withholding.

The filing process required by this section shall not be construed as requiring an application, petition, answer, and hearing as might be required for the filing or registration of foreign judgments by the Nebraska Uniform Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act or the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act. ~~The purpose of this section is to enable the clerk of the district court to receive, account for, and distribute collections generated by income withholding.~~

Sec. 27. Section 43-1741, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-1741. Any person who is the obligor on a foreign support order may obtain voluntary income withholding by filing with the court a request for such withholding and a certified copy of the foreign support order. The court shall issue an income withholding order pursuant to section 43-1737. Payment shall be made to the ~~clerk of the district court specified in the order~~ State Disbursement Unit.

Sec. 28. Section 43-3341, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1999, is amended to read:

43-3341. For purposes of sections 43-3341 to 43-3347 and sections 1 to 6 of this act:

(1) Business day means a day on which state offices are open for regular business;

(2) Child support has the same meaning as found in section 43-1705;

(3) Department means the Department of Health and Human Services;

(4) Medical support has the same meaning as found in section 43-512;

(5) Obligee means a person to whom a duty of support is owed pursuant to a support order;

(6) Obligor means a person who owes a duty of support pursuant to a support order;

(7) Normal business hours means 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Central Time;

(8) Spousal support has the same meaning as found in section 43-1715;

~~(9)~~ (9) State Disbursement Unit means the unit established in section 43-3342;

~~(9)~~ (10) Support has the same meaning as found in section 43-3313;

~~(10)~~ (11) Support order has the same meaning as found in section 43-1717; and

~~(11)~~ (12) Title IV-D Division means the Title IV-D Division of the department which is the single organizational unit of the state that has the responsibility for administering or supervising the administration of the state plan under Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act.

Sec. 29. Section 43-3342, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1999, is amended to read:

43-3342. There is hereby created a State Disbursement Unit, ~~pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 654b,~~ for the statewide collection and disbursement of support order payments. The State Disbursement Unit shall be administered and operated directly by a public or private entity or state officer as designated by the Title IV-D Division. The designation shall be subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the Legislature. The entity or officer as designated shall be directly responsible to the Title IV-D Division.

In employing initial staff for the unit, a hiring preference shall be given to employees of the clerks of the district court.

Sec. 30. Section 43-3344, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1999, is amended to read:

43-3344. Until the State Disbursement Unit established in section 43-3342 becomes operative, the Title IV-D Division shall reimburse counties for unrecovered costs associated with the processing and disbursement of support order payments based upon insufficient funds checks. ~~received from obligors.~~ Support order payments shall be disbursed within two business days after receipt.

Sec. 31. Section 43-3346, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1999, is amended to read:

43-3346. The Title IV-D Support Payment ~~Cash~~ Distributive Fund is created. The fund shall be used for the collection and disbursement of support payments as provided in sections 43-3341 to 43-3347 and sections 1 to 6 of this act. Any money in the Title IV-D Support Payment Cash Fund on the operative date of this section shall be transferred to the Title IV-D Support Payment Distributive Fund.

Sec. 32. Section 43-3347, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1999, is amended to read:

43-3347. The Title IV-D Division shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out sections 43-3341 to 43-3347 and sections 1 to 6 of this act.

Sec. 33. Sections 4, 5, 6, 13, 16, 17, 26, 28 to 34, and 36 of this act become operative on their effective date. The other sections of this act become operative on April 1, 2000, but if the Title IV-D Division does not have operative the statewide automated data processing and retrieval system necessary for centralized collection and disbursement of support order payments, the other sections of this act become effective when such system is operative.

Sec. 34. Original sections 42-364.13, 42-371.01, 43-512, and 43-1729, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 43-3341, 43-3342, 43-3344, 43-3346, and 43-3347, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1999, are repealed.

Sec. 35. Original sections 42-347, 42-357, 42-358, 42-358.01, 42-358.02, 42-364.01, 42-364.15, 42-369, 43-512.07, 43-1701, 43-1703, 43-1718, 43-1718.02, 43-1723, 43-1727, and 43-1741, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.

Sec. 36. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.