

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

No. 835

S.P. 271

In Senate, March 9, 1993

An Act to Enhance Collection of Child Support.

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CAREY of Kennebec. (BY REQUEST).

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

2
3 **Sec. 1. 19 MRSA §504-A, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 652,
4 §34, is amended to read:

6 **1. Order to withhold; commissioner may serve.** The
7 commissioner may direct any person by order to withhold property,
8 including wages, which is due or belonging to the responsible
9 parent when the responsible parent has failed to make payments
10 under a support order and the amount in arrears is at least equal
11 to the support payable for one month. The commissioner shall
12 direct by order the employer of a responsible parent to withhold
13 wages of the responsible parent whenever the responsible parent's
14 child support obligations are in arrears by \$500 or more. The
15 commissioner shall serve the order on the person directed to
16 withhold.

18 **Sec. 2. 19 MRSA §§512-B, 512-C and 512-D** are enacted to read:

20 **§512-B. Annual publication of child support debts**

22 Once each year the department shall publish in each of the
23 State's daily newspapers a list of persons who owe child support
24 debts that have been liquidated by judicial or administrative
25 action. The list must include the names of the persons who owe
26 the debts and the amounts owed.

28 **§512-C. Referral of debt to debt collection agencies**

30 Whenever the department is due a debt of \$25 or more under
31 section 495, it may refer the debt to a debt collection agency.
32 The department may provide to the debt collection agency any
33 information that assists the agency to collect the debt.

34 **§512-D. Fund established**

36 **1. Creation of fund.** There is established the Child
37 Support Debt Loan Fund, which must be used to provide
38 low-interest loans to qualified borrowers in order to pay child
39 support debts that have been liquidated by judicial or
40 administrative action. A loan approved from the fund must be
41 paid directly to the person who is owed the child support debt.
42 The fund must be deposited with, maintained and administered by
43 the Finance Authority of Maine and may contain appropriations
44 provided for that purpose, interest accrued on the fund balance,
45 federal funds received to be applied to the fund and funds
46 received in repayment of loans. The fund is a nonlapsing
47 revolving fund. All money in the fund must be continuously
48 applied to carry out the purposes of this section.

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