

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

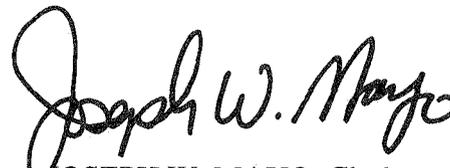
No. 1322

H.P. 959

House of Representatives, March 4, 1997

An Act to Strengthen the Laws Governing Nonpayment of Child Support.

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative CAMPBELL of Holden.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BRUNO of Raymond, JOYNER of Hollis, O'BRIEN of Augusta, OTT of York, PLOWMAN of Hampden, VIGUE of Winslow.

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

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Sec. 1. 19-A MRSA §2101, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 and affected by Pt. E, §2, is amended to read:

2. **Compliance with an order of support.** "Compliance with an order of support" means that the support obligor is no more than 90 days in arrears in making payments in full for current support, in making periodic payments on a support arrearage pursuant to a written agreement with the department or in making periodic payments as set forth in an order of support and has obtained or maintained health insurance coverage if required by an order of support. For purposes of Title 29-A, section 2459, if a support obligor's motor vehicle operator's license or permit was suspended within the previous 12 months for noncompliance with an order of support, "compliance with an order of support" means that the support obligor is no more than 30 days in arrears in making payments in full for current support, in making periodic payments on a support arrearage pursuant to a written agreement with the department or in making periodic payments as set forth in an order of support and has obtained or maintained health insurance coverage if required by an order of support.

Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §2459, sub-§8 is enacted to read:

8. Repeat suspensions. If a support obligor's license, permit or privilege to operate has been suspended under this section 4 or more times, the license or permit may not be reinstated for one year.

Sec. 3. **Effective date.** This Act takes effect October 1, 1997.

SUMMARY

Current law provides that a child support obligor is in compliance with an order of support if payments in full have been made in the previous 90 days. This bill provides that, for purposes of suspension of a motor vehicle operator's license or permit, if the support obligor's license or permit has been suspended for nonpayment of support within the previous 12 months, the support obligor must have made full payments within the previous 30 days to be considered in compliance. This bill also provides that after the 4th suspension of a support obligor's license or permit, the license or permit may not be reinstated for one year.