

One Hundred Second Legislature - First Session - 2011

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB488

Chairperson: Senator Brad Ashford

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: February 03, 2011

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

It is the intent of the Child Support Transparency Act to improve the enforcement of and compliance with child support orders in order to alleviate potential burdens on state systems that result when a custodial parent is unable to support his or her children without financial assistance from the non-custodial parent. It is not the intent of LB 488 to add additional cost to the Department of Health and Human Services or the State Treasurer. It is the intent of LB 488 to utilize, to the greatest extent possible, existing written notifications, processes and existing web sites to carry out the Child Support Transparency Act.

LB 488, the Child Support Transparency Act, requires the State Treasurer to publish a list provided by the Department of delinquent child support obligors who meet the following conditions:

- The amount of the obligor's delinquent court-ordered child support exceeds \$5,000;
- The obligor has not made any child support payments in the six months immediately preceding publication;
- The obligor is not involved in bankruptcy proceedings or receiving public assistance; and,
- The custodial parent has signed a confidentiality waiver allowing certain case information to be made public.

The list published by the State Treasurer under the Child Support Transparency Act shall include:

- The name of the child support obligor;
- The amount of child support owed, including interest;
- The time period of delinquency;
- The most recent city of residence of the obligor; and,

- Contact information for the Department of Health and Human Services to disclose information that may assist in locating the delinquent child support obligors.

The list shall not include the name of the child/ren and the name of the custodial parent to whom child support is owed or any other information required by law to remain confidential.

LB 488 also requires a child support obligor to reimburse the child support payee should an annual fee be assessed to the payee of child support. Currently, a \$25 annual fee is assessed to the child support payee once over \$500 in child support has been collected and disbursed. LB 488 maintains that the child support payee is assessed the fee initially. However, the child support obligor is required to reimburse the child support payee the annual fee in addition to their next monthly disbursement of support. If the obligor's next monthly remittance does not include reimbursement of the annual fee, the amount shall be deemed a delinquent payment.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Jeremy Nordquist