



## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**Ralph DLG. Torres**  
Governor

**Victor B. Hocog**  
Lieutenant Governor

06 OCT 2017

The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios  
Senate President, The Senate  
Twentieth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

The Honorable Rafael S. Demapan  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twentieth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law Senate Bill No. 20-41, SD1, entitled, "To repeal and reenact Title 8, Division 1, Chapter 5, Articles 1 through 3, and Title 8, Section 1580 of the Commonwealth Code; to establish the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 20-22**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph DLG. Torres", written over a circular stamp or seal.

**RALPH DLG. TORRES**

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Office of the Attorney General; Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review



THE SENATE  
Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature  
P. O. Box 500129  
Saipan, MP 96950

August 31, 2017

The Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Capital Hill  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Torres:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your action Senate Bill No. 20-41, SD1, entitled: "To repeal and reenact Title 8, Division 1, Chapter 5, Articles 1 through 3, and Title 8, Section 1580 of the Commonwealth Code; to establish the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dolores S. Bermudes".

Dolores S. Bermudes  
Senate Clerk

Attachments



**THE SENATE**  
**TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 20-41, SD1**

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**AN ACT**

To repeal and reenact Title 8, Division 1, Chapter 5, Articles 1 through 3, and Title 8, Section 1580 of the Commonwealth Code; to establish the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act; and for other purposes.

***SENATE ACTION***

**Offered by Senator(s):** Arnold I. Palacios

**Date:** May 15, 2017

**Referred to:** Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law

**Standing Committee Report No.:** None

**First and Final Reading:** August 10, 2017

***HOUSE ACTION***

**Referred to:** None

**Standing Committee Report No.:** None

**First and Final Reading:** August 30, 2017

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**DOLORES S. BERMUDEZ**  
**SENATE CLERK**



THE SENATE  
TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION, 2017

S. B. NO. 20-41, SD1

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AN ACT

To repeal and reenact Title 8, Division 1, Chapter 5, Articles 1 through 3, and Title 8, Section 1580 of the Commonwealth Code; to establish the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS  
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1           **Section 1. Short title.** This Act may be referred to as the “Uniform Interstate  
2 Family Support Act”.

3           **Section 2. Findings. The Legislature finds that:**

4           a) The United States Congress determined that because of the tendency of  
5 parents to travel from state to state, and the fact that parents of a child often live in  
6 different states, it would be highly desirable to have a relatively few “mandatory state  
7 laws” that all states must enact.

8           b) To assure enactment of these state laws, Congress tied funding for states’  
9 child support and welfare programs to the enactment of such legislation.

10           c) On September 29, 2014, Public Law (P.L.) 113-183, the Preventing Sex  
11 Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act was signed into law.

12           d) There is a federal mandate set forth in Section 666(f) of Title 42 of the  
13 United States Code requiring each state to adopt and have in effect the Uniform Interstate  
14 Family Support Act (UIFSA), including any amendments officially adopted by the  
15 National Council of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws as of September 30, 2008.

16           e) The purpose of the UIFSA is to make uniform child support law across all  
17 states, territories and participating foreign countries. Enactment of UIFSA would bring the

1 CNMI into compliance with federal child support requirements and be on par with all the  
2 states, including Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Guam.

3 f) In addition, this legislation will assist the CNMI to better serve children and  
4 families in establishing and enforcing child support when one parent resides outside the  
5 CNMI. Currently, the CNMI is operating under the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of  
6 Support Act (URESAs) from 1968. This proposed UIFSA will replace URESAs.

7 **Section 3. Repeal.** Title 8, Division 1, Chapter 5, Articles 1 through 3 of the  
8 Commonwealth Code are hereby repealed.

9 **Section 4. Repeal.** Title 8 Section 1580 of the Commonwealth Code is hereby  
10 repealed.

11 **Section 5. Amendment.** Title 8, Division 1, Chapter 5, Article 4 (8 CMC §§  
12 1571-1579 and 1581-1593) is hereby redesignated under a new Chapter 11 of Division 1 of  
13 Title 8, to be renumbered accordingly by the Law Review Commission.

14 **Section 6. Amendment.** Title 8, Division 1, Chapter 5 of the Commonwealth  
15 Code is amended by adding a new Chapter 5 to read as follows:

16 **“Chapter 5. Uniform Interstate Family Support Act.**

17 **Article 1. General Provisions.**

18 **§ 15101. Short Title.**

19 This Act may be cited as the “Uniform Interstate Family Support Act.”

20 **§ 15102. Definitions.** In this Act:

21 (a) “Child” means an individual, whether over or under the age of majority, who is  
22 or is alleged to be owed a duty of support by the individual’s parent or who is or is alleged  
23 to be the beneficiary of a support order directed to the parent.

24 (b) “Child-support order” means a support order for a child, including a child who  
25 has attained the age of majority under the law of the issuing state or foreign country.

26 (c) “Convention” means the Convention on the International Recovery of Child  
27 Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance, concluded at The Hague on November  
28 23, 2007.

29 (d) “Duty of support” means an obligation imposed or imposable by law to provide

1 support for a child, spouse, or former spouse, including an unsatisfied obligation to provide  
2 support.

3 (e) "Foreign country" means a country, including a political subdivision thereof,  
4 other than the United States, that authorizes the issuance of support orders and:

5 (1) which has been declared under the law of the United States to be a  
6 foreign reciprocating country;

7 (2) which has established a reciprocal arrangement for child support with  
8 this state as provided in Section 15308;

9 (3) which has enacted a law or established procedures for the issuance and  
10 enforcement of support orders which are substantially similar to the procedures  
11 under this Act; or

12 (4) in which the Convention is in force with respect to the United States.

13 (f) "Foreign support order" means a support order of a foreign tribunal.

14 (g) "Foreign tribunal" means a court, administrative agency, or quasi-judicial entity  
15 of a foreign country which is authorized to establish, enforce, or modify support orders or  
16 to determine parentage of a child. The term includes a competent authority under the  
17 Convention.

18 (h) "Home state" means the state or foreign country in which a child lived with a  
19 parent or a person acting as parent for at least six consecutive months immediately  
20 preceding the time of filing of a petition or comparable pleading for support and, if a child  
21 is less than six months old, the state or foreign country in which the child lived from birth  
22 with any of them. A period of temporary absence of any of them is counted as part of the  
23 six-month or other period.

24 (i) "Income" includes earnings or other periodic entitlements to money from any  
25 source and any other property subject to withholding for support under the law of this  
26 state.

27 (j) "Income-withholding order" means an order or other legal process directed to an  
28 obligor's employer, or other debtor, as defined by the income-withholding law of this state,  
29 to withhold support from the income of the obligor.

1 (k) "Initiating tribunal" means the tribunal of a state or foreign country from which  
2 a petition or comparable pleading is forwarded or in which a petition or comparable  
3 pleading is filed for forwarding to another state or foreign country.

4 (l) "Issuing foreign country" means the foreign country in which a tribunal issues a  
5 support order or a judgment determining parentage of a child.

6 (m) "Issuing state" means the state in which a tribunal issues a support order or a  
7 judgment determining parentage of a child.

8 (n) "Issuing tribunal" means the tribunal of a state or foreign country that issues a  
9 support order or a judgment determining parentage of a child.

10 (o) "Law" includes decisional and statutory law and rules and regulations having  
11 the force of law.

12 (p) "Obligee" means:

13 (1) an individual to whom a duty of support is or is alleged to be owed or in  
14 whose favor a support order or a judgment determining parentage of a child has  
15 been issued;

16 (2) a foreign country, state, or political subdivision of a state to which the  
17 rights under a duty of support or support order have been assigned or which has  
18 independent claims based on financial assistance provided to an individual obligee  
19 in place of child support;

20 (3) an individual seeking a judgment determining parentage of the  
21 individual's child; or

22 (4) a person that is a creditor in a proceeding under Article 7.

23 (q) "Obligor" means an individual, or the estate of a decedent that:

24 (1) owes or is alleged to owe a duty of support;

25 (2) is alleged but has not been adjudicated to be a parent of a child;

26 (3) is liable under a support order; or

27 (4) is a debtor in a proceeding under Article 7.

28 (r) "Outside this state" means a location in another state or a country other than the  
29 United States, whether or not the country is a foreign country.

1 (s) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust,  
2 partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, public corporation,  
3 government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other legal or  
4 commercial entity.

5 (t) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is  
6 stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

7 (u) "Register" means to file in a tribunal of this state a support order or judgment  
8 determining parentage of a child issued in another state or a foreign country.

9 (v) "Registering tribunal" means a tribunal in which a support order or judgment  
10 determining parentage of a child is registered.

11 (w) "Responding state" means a state in which a petition or comparable pleading  
12 for support or to determine parentage of a child is filed or to which a petition or  
13 comparable pleading is forwarded for filing from another state or a foreign country.

14 (x) "Responding tribunal" means the authorized tribunal in a responding state or  
15 foreign country.

16 (y) "Spousal-support order" means a support order for a spouse or former spouse of  
17 the obligor.

18 (z) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto  
19 Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession under the  
20 jurisdiction of the United States. The term includes an Indian nation or tribe.

21 (aa) "Support enforcement agency" means a public official, governmental entity, or  
22 private agency authorized to:

23 (1) seek enforcement of support orders or laws relating to the duty of  
24 support;

25 (2) seek establishment or modification of child support;

26 (3) request determination of parentage of a child;

27 (4) attempt to locate obligors or their assets; or

28 (5) request determination of the controlling child-support order.

29 (bb) "Support order" means a judgment, decree, order, decision, or directive,



1 whether temporary, final, or subject to modification, issued in a state or foreign country for  
2 the benefit of a child, a spouse, or a former spouse, which provides for monetary support,  
3 health care, arrearages, retroactive support, or reimbursement for financial assistance  
4 provided to an individual obligee in place of child support. The term may include related  
5 costs and fees, interest, income withholding, automatic adjustment, reasonable attorney's  
6 fees, and other relief.

7 (cc) "Tribunal" means a court, administrative agency, or quasi-judicial entity  
8 authorized to establish, enforce, or modify support orders or to determine parentage of a  
9 child.

10 **§ 15103. State Tribunal and Support Enforcement Agency.**

11 (a) The Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is  
12 the tribunal of this state.

13 (b) ~~The Child Support Enforcement Division of the~~ Office of the Attorney General  
14 is the support enforcement agency of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
15 ~~this state.~~

16 **§ 15104. Remedies Cumulative.**

17 (a) Remedies provided by this Act are cumulative and do not affect the availability  
18 of remedies under other law or the recognition of a foreign support order on the basis of  
19 comity.

20 (b) This Act does not:

21 (1) provide the exclusive method of establishing or enforcing a support  
22 order under the law of this state; or

23 (2) grant a tribunal of this state jurisdiction to render judgment or issue an  
24 order relating to child custody or visitation in a proceeding under this Act.

25 **§ 15105. Application of Act to Resident of Foreign Country and Foreign**  
26 **Support Proceeding.**

27 (a) A tribunal of this state shall apply Articles 1 through 6 and, as applicable,  
28 Article 7, to a support proceeding involving:

29 (1) a foreign support order;

1 (2) a foreign tribunal; or

2 (3) an obligee, obligor, or child residing in a foreign country.

3 (b) A tribunal of this state that is requested to recognize and enforce a support order  
4 on the basis of comity may apply the procedural and substantive provisions of Articles 1  
5 through 6.

6 (c) Article 7 applies only to a support proceeding under the Convention. In such a  
7 proceeding, if a provision of Article 7 is inconsistent with Articles 1 through 6, Article 7  
8 controls.

9 **Article 2. Jurisdiction.**

10 **§ 15201. Bases for Jurisdiction Over Nonresident.**

11 (a) In a proceeding to establish or enforce a support order or to determine parentage  
12 of a child, a tribunal of this state may exercise personal jurisdiction over a nonresident  
13 individual or the individual's guardian if:

14 (1) the individual is personally served with summons or notice within this  
15 state;

16 (2) the individual submits to the jurisdiction of this state by consent in a  
17 record, by entering a general appearance, or by filing a responsive document having  
18 the effect of waiving any contest to personal jurisdiction;

19 (3) the individual resided with the child in this state;

20 (4) the individual resided in this state and provided prenatal expenses or  
21 support for the child;

22 (5) the child resides in this state as a result of the acts or directives of the  
23 individual;

24 (6) the individual engaged in sexual intercourse in this state and the child  
25 may have been conceived by that act of intercourse;

26 (7) the individual asserted parentage of a child in a CNMI Declaration of  
27 Paternity form; or

28 (8) there is any other basis consistent with the constitutions of this state and  
29 the United States for the exercise of personal jurisdiction.

1 (b) The bases of personal jurisdiction set forth in subsection (a) or in any other law  
2 of this state may not be used to acquire personal jurisdiction for a tribunal of this state to  
3 modify a child-support order of another state unless the requirements of Section 15611 are  
4 met, or, in the case of a foreign support order, unless the requirements of Section 15615 are  
5 met.

6 **§ 15202. Duration of Personal Jurisdiction.**

7 Personal jurisdiction acquired by a tribunal of this state in a proceeding under this  
8 Act or other law of this state relating to a support order continues as long as a tribunal of  
9 this state has continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify its order or continuing  
10 jurisdiction to enforce its order as provided by Sections 15205, 15206, and 15211.

11 **§ 15203. Initiating and Responding Tribunal of State.**

12 Under this Act, a tribunal of this state may serve as an initiating tribunal to forward  
13 proceedings to a tribunal of another state, and as a responding tribunal for proceedings  
14 initiated in another state or a foreign country.

15 **§ 15204. Simultaneous Proceedings.**

16 (a) A tribunal of this state may exercise jurisdiction to establish a support order if  
17 the petition or comparable pleading is filed after a pleading is filed in another state or a  
18 foreign country only if:

19 (1) the petition or comparable pleading in this state is filed before the  
20 expiration of the time allowed in the other state or the foreign country for filing a  
21 responsive pleading challenging the exercise of jurisdiction by the other state or the  
22 foreign country;

23 (2) the contesting party timely challenges the exercise of jurisdiction in the  
24 other state or the foreign country; and

25 (3) if relevant, this state is the home state of the child.

26 (b) A tribunal of this state may not exercise jurisdiction to establish a support order  
27 if the petition or comparable pleading is filed before a petition or comparable pleading is  
28 filed in another state or a foreign country if:

29 (1) the petition or comparable pleading in the other state or foreign country

1 is filed before the expiration of the time allowed in this state for filing a responsive  
2 pleading challenging the exercise of jurisdiction by this state;

3 (2) the contesting party timely challenges the exercise of jurisdiction in this  
4 state; and

5 (3) if relevant, the other state or foreign country is the home state of the  
6 child.

7 **§ 15205. Continuing, Exclusive Jurisdiction to Modify Child-Support Order.**

8 (a) A tribunal of this state that has issued a child-support order consistent with the  
9 law of this state has and shall exercise continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify its  
10 child-support order if the order is the controlling order and:

11 (1) at the time of the filing of a request for modification this state is the  
12 residence of the obligor, the individual obligee, or the child for whose benefit the  
13 support order is issued; or

14 (2) even if this state is not the residence of the obligor, the individual  
15 obligee, or the child for whose benefit the support order is issued, the parties  
16 consent in a record or in open court that the tribunal of this state may continue to  
17 exercise jurisdiction to modify its order.

18 (b) A tribunal of this state that has issued a child-support order consistent with the  
19 law of this state may not exercise continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify the order if:

20 (1) all of the parties who are individuals file consent in a record with the  
21 tribunal of this state that a tribunal of another state that has jurisdiction over at least  
22 one of the parties who is an individual or that is located in the state of residence of  
23 the child may modify the order and assume continuing, exclusive jurisdiction; or

24 (2) its order is not the controlling order.

25 (c) If a tribunal of another state has issued a child-support order pursuant to the  
26 Uniform Interstate Family Support Act or a law substantially similar to that Act which  
27 modifies a child-support order of a tribunal of this state, tribunals of this state shall  
28 recognize the continuing, exclusive jurisdiction of the tribunal of the other state.

29 (d) A tribunal of this state that lacks continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify a

1 child-support order may serve as an initiating tribunal to request a tribunal of another state  
2 to modify a support order issued in that state.

3 (e) A temporary support order issued ex parte or pending resolution of a  
4 jurisdictional conflict does not create continuing, exclusive jurisdiction in the issuing  
5 tribunal.

6 **§ 15206. Continuing Jurisdiction to Enforce Child-Support Order.**

7 (a) A tribunal of this state that has issued a child-support order consistent with the  
8 law of this state may serve as an initiating tribunal to request a tribunal of another state to  
9 enforce:

10 (1) the order if the order is the controlling order and has not been modified  
11 by a tribunal of another state that assumed jurisdiction pursuant to the Uniform  
12 Interstate Family Support Act; or

13 (2) a money judgment for arrears of support and interest on the order  
14 accrued before a determination that an order of a tribunal of another state is the  
15 controlling order.

16 (b) A tribunal of this state having continuing jurisdiction over a support order may  
17 act as a responding tribunal to enforce the order.

18 **§ 15207. Determination of Controlling Child-Support Order.**

19 (a) If a proceeding is brought under this Act and only one tribunal has issued a  
20 child-support order, the order of that tribunal controls and must be recognized.

21 (b) If a proceeding is brought under this Act, and two or more child-support orders  
22 have been issued by tribunals of this state, another state, or a foreign country with regard to  
23 the same obligor and same child, a tribunal of this state having personal jurisdiction over  
24 both the obligor and individual obligee shall apply the following rules and by order shall  
25 determine which order controls and must be recognized:

26 (1) If only one of the tribunals would have continuing, exclusive  
27 jurisdiction under this Act, the order of that tribunal controls.

28 (2) If more than one of the tribunals would have continuing, exclusive  
29 jurisdiction under this Act:

1 (A) an order issued by a tribunal in the current home state of the  
2 child controls; or

3 (B) if an order has not been issued in the current home state of the  
4 child, the order most recently issued controls.

5 (3) If none of the tribunals would have continuing, exclusive jurisdiction  
6 under this Act, the tribunal of this state shall issue a child-support order, which  
7 controls.

8 (c) If two or more child-support orders have been issued for the same obligor and  
9 same child, upon request of a party who is an individual or that is a support enforcement  
10 agency, a tribunal of this state having personal jurisdiction over both the obligor and the  
11 obligee who is an individual shall determine which order controls under subsection (b).  
12 The request may be filed with a registration for enforcement or registration for  
13 modification pursuant to Article 6, or may be filed as a separate proceeding.

14 (d) A request to determine which is the controlling order must be accompanied by a  
15 copy of every child-support order in effect and the applicable record of payments. The  
16 requesting party shall give notice of the request to each party whose rights may be affected  
17 by the determination.

18 (e) The tribunal that issued the controlling order under subsection (a), (b), or (c) has  
19 continuing jurisdiction to the extent provided in Section 15205 or 15206.

20 (f) A tribunal of this state that determines by order which is the controlling order  
21 under subsection (b)(1) or (2) or (c), or that issues a new controlling order under  
22 subsection (b)(3), shall state in that order:

23 (1) the basis upon which the tribunal made its determination;

24 (2) the amount of prospective support, if any; and

25 (3) the total amount of consolidated arrears and accrued interest, if any,  
26 under all of the orders after all payments made are credited as provided by Section  
27 15209.

28 (g) Within 30 days after issuance of an order determining which is the controlling  
29 order, the party obtaining the order shall file a certified copy of it in each tribunal that

1 issued or registered an earlier order of child support. A party or support enforcement  
2 agency obtaining the order that fails to file a certified copy is subject to appropriate  
3 sanctions by a tribunal in which the issue of failure to file arises. The failure to file does  
4 not affect the validity or enforceability of the controlling order.

5 (h) An order that has been determined to be the controlling order, or a judgment for  
6 consolidated arrears of support and interest, if any, made pursuant to this section must be  
7 recognized in proceedings under this Act.

8 **§ 15208. Child-Support Orders for Two or More Obligees.**

9 In responding to registrations or petitions for enforcement of two or more child-  
10 support orders in effect at the same time with regard to the same obligor and different  
11 individual obligees, at least one of which was issued by a tribunal of another state or a  
12 foreign country, a tribunal of this state shall enforce those orders in the same manner as if  
13 the orders had been issued by a tribunal of this state.

14 **§ 15209. Credit for Payments.**

15 A tribunal of this state shall credit amounts collected for a particular period  
16 pursuant to any child-support order against the amounts owed for the same period under  
17 any other child-support order for support of the same child issued by a tribunal of this  
18 state, another state, or a foreign country.

19 **§ 15210. Application of Act to Nonresident Subject to Personal Jurisdiction.**

20 A tribunal of this state exercising personal jurisdiction over a nonresident in a  
21 proceeding under this Act, under other law of this state relating to a support order, or  
22 recognizing a foreign support order may receive evidence from outside this state pursuant  
23 to Section 15316, communicate with a tribunal outside this state pursuant to Section  
24 15317, and obtain discovery through a tribunal outside this state pursuant to Section  
25 15318. In all other respects, Articles 3 through 6 do not apply, and the tribunal shall apply  
26 the procedural and substantive law of this state.

27 **§ 15211. Continuing, Exclusive Jurisdiction to Modify Spousal-Support Order.**

28 (a) A tribunal of this state issuing a spousal-support order consistent with the law of  
29 this state has continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify the spousal-support order

1 throughout the existence of the support obligation.

2 (b) A tribunal of this state may not modify a spousal-support order issued by a  
3 tribunal of another state or a foreign country having continuing, exclusive jurisdiction over  
4 that order under the law of that state or foreign country.

5 (c) A tribunal of this state that has continuing, exclusive jurisdiction over a spousal-  
6 support order may serve as:

7 (1) an initiating tribunal to request a tribunal of another state to enforce the  
8 spousal-support order issued in this state; or

9 (2) a responding tribunal to enforce or modify its own spousal-support  
10 order.

11 **Article 3. Civil Provisions of General Application.**

12 **§ 15301. Proceedings Under Act.**

13 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Act, this Article applies to all proceedings  
14 under this Act.

15 (b) An individual petitioner or a support enforcement agency may initiate a  
16 proceeding authorized under this Act by filing a petition in an initiating tribunal for  
17 forwarding to a responding tribunal or by filing a petition or a comparable pleading  
18 directly in a tribunal of another state or a foreign country which has or can obtain personal  
19 jurisdiction over the respondent.

20 **§ 15302. Proceedings by Minor Parent.**

21 A minor parent, or a guardian or other legal representative of a minor parent, may  
22 maintain a proceeding on behalf of or for the benefit of the minor's child.

23 **§ 15303. Application of Law of State.**

24 Except as otherwise provided in this Act, a responding tribunal of this state shall:

25 (a) apply the procedural and substantive law generally applicable to similar  
26 proceedings originating in this state and may exercise all powers and provide all remedies  
27 available in those proceedings; and

28 (b) determine the duty of support and the amount payable in accordance with the  
29 law and support guidelines of this state.



1           **§ 15304. Duties of Initiating Tribunal.**

2           (a) Upon the filing of a petition authorized by this Act, an initiating tribunal of this  
3 state shall forward the petition and its accompanying documents:

4                   (1) to the responding tribunal or appropriate support enforcement agency in  
5 the responding state; or

6                   (2) if the identity of the responding tribunal is unknown, to the state  
7 information agency of the responding state with a request that they be forwarded to  
8 the appropriate tribunal and that receipt be acknowledged.

9           (b) If requested by the responding tribunal, a tribunal of this state shall issue a  
10 certificate or other document and make findings required by the law of the responding  
11 state. If the responding tribunal is in a foreign country, upon request the tribunal of this  
12 state shall specify the amount of support sought, convert that amount into the equivalent  
13 amount in the foreign currency under applicable official or market exchange rate as  
14 publicly reported, and provide any other documents necessary to satisfy the requirements  
15 of the responding foreign tribunal.

16           **§ 15305. Duties and Powers of Responding Tribunal.**

17           (a) When a responding tribunal of this state receives a petition or comparable  
18 pleading from an initiating tribunal or directly pursuant to Section 15301(b), it shall cause  
19 the petition or pleading to be filed and notify the petitioner where and when it was filed.

20           (b) A responding tribunal of this state, to the extent not prohibited by other law,  
21 may do one or more of the following:

22                   (1) establish or enforce a support order, modify a child-support order,  
23 determine the controlling child-support order, or determine parentage of a child;

24                   (2) order an obligor to comply with a support order, specifying the amount  
25 and the manner of compliance;

26                   (3) order income withholding;

27                   (4) determine the amount of any arrearages, and specify a method of  
28 payment;

29                   (5) enforce orders by civil or criminal contempt, or both;

- 1 (6) set aside property for satisfaction of the support order;
- 2 (7) place liens and order execution on the obligor's property;
- 3 (8) order an obligor to keep the tribunal informed of the obligor's current
- 4 residential address, electronic-mail address, telephone number, employer, address
- 5 of employment, and telephone number at the place of employment;
- 6 (9) issue a bench warrant for an obligor who has failed after proper notice to
- 7 appear at a hearing ordered by the tribunal and enter the bench warrant in any local
- 8 and state computer systems for criminal warrants;
- 9 (10) order the obligor to seek appropriate employment by specified
- 10 methods;
- 11 (11) award reasonable attorney's fees and other fees and costs; and
- 12 (12) grant any other available remedy.

13 (c) A responding tribunal of this state shall include in a support order issued under  
14 this Act, or in the documents accompanying the order, the calculations on which the  
15 support order is based.

16 (d) A responding tribunal of this state may not condition the payment of a support  
17 order issued under this Act upon compliance by a party with provisions for visitation.

18 (e) If a responding tribunal of this state issues an order under this Act, the tribunal  
19 shall send a copy of the order to the petitioner and the respondent and to the initiating  
20 tribunal, if any.

21 (f) If requested to enforce a support order, arrears, or judgment or modify a support  
22 order stated in a foreign currency, a responding tribunal of this state shall convert the  
23 amount stated in the foreign currency to the equivalent amount in dollars under the  
24 applicable official or market exchange rate as publicly reported.

25 **§ 15306. Inappropriate Tribunal.**

26 If a petition or comparable pleading is received by an inappropriate tribunal of this  
27 state, the tribunal shall forward the pleading and accompanying documents to an  
28 appropriate tribunal of this state or another state and notify the petitioner where and when  
29 the pleading was sent.

1           **§ 15307. Duties of Support Enforcement Agency.**

2           (a) In a proceeding under this Act, a support enforcement agency of this state, upon  
3 request:

4                   (1) shall provide services to a petitioner residing in a state;

5                   (2) shall provide services to a petitioner requesting services through a  
6 central authority of a foreign country as described in Section 15102(e)(1) or (4);  
7 and

8                   (3) may provide services to a petitioner who is an individual not residing in  
9 a state.

10          (b) A support enforcement agency of this state that is providing services to the  
11 petitioner shall:

12                   (1) take all steps necessary to enable an appropriate tribunal of this state,  
13 another state, or a foreign country to obtain jurisdiction over the respondent;

14                   (2) request an appropriate tribunal to set a date, time, and place for a  
15 hearing;

16                   (3) make a reasonable effort to obtain all relevant information, including  
17 information as to income and property of the parties;

18                   (4) within two days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays,  
19 after receipt of notice in a record from an initiating, responding, or registering  
20 tribunal, send a copy of the notice to the petitioner;

21                   (5) within two days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays,  
22 after receipt of communication in a record from the respondent or the respondent's  
23 attorney, send a copy of the communication to the petitioner; and

24                   (6) notify the petitioner if jurisdiction over the respondent cannot be  
25 obtained.

26          (c) A support enforcement agency of this state that requests registration of a child-  
27 support order in this state for enforcement or for modification shall make reasonable  
28 efforts:

29                   (1) to ensure that the order to be registered is the controlling order; or

1 (2) if two or more child-support orders exist and the identity of the  
2 controlling order has not been determined, to ensure that a request for such a  
3 determination is made in a tribunal having jurisdiction to do so.

4 (d) A support enforcement agency of this state that requests registration and  
5 enforcement of a support order, arrears, or judgment stated in a foreign currency shall  
6 convert the amounts stated in the foreign currency into the equivalent amounts in dollars  
7 under the applicable official or market exchange rate as publicly reported.

8 (e) A support enforcement agency of this state shall issue or request a tribunal of  
9 this state to issue a child-support order and an income-withholding order that redirect  
10 payment of current support, arrears, and interest if requested to do so by a support  
11 enforcement agency of another state pursuant to Section 15319.

12 (f) This Act does not create or negate a relationship of attorney and client or other  
13 fiduciary relationship between a support enforcement agency or the attorney for the agency  
14 and the individual being assisted by the agency.

15 **§ 15308. Duty of Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern**  
16 **Mariana Islands.**

17 (a) If the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
18 determines that the support enforcement agency is neglecting or refusing to provide  
19 services to an individual, the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern  
20 Mariana Islands may order the agency to perform its duties under this Act or may provide  
21 those services directly to the individual.

22 (b) The Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands may  
23 determine that a foreign country has established a reciprocal arrangement for child support  
24 with this state and take appropriate action for notification of the determination.

25 **§ 15309. Private Counsel.**

26 An individual may employ private counsel to represent the individual in  
27 proceedings authorized by this Act.

28 **§ 15310. Duties of Child Support Enforcement Division.**

29 (a) The Child Support Enforcement Division is the state information agency under

1 this Act.

2 (b) The state information agency shall:

3 (1) compile and maintain a current list, including addresses, of the tribunals  
4 in this state which have jurisdiction under this Act and any support enforcement  
5 agencies in this state and transmit a copy to the state information agency of every  
6 other state;

7 (2) maintain a register of names and addresses of tribunals and support  
8 enforcement agencies received from other states;

9 (3) forward to the appropriate tribunal in the county in this state in which  
10 the obligee who is an individual or the obligor resides, or in which the obligor's  
11 property is believed to be located, all documents concerning a proceeding under  
12 this Act received from another state or a foreign country; and

13 (4) obtain information concerning the location of the obligor and the  
14 obligor's property within this state not exempt from execution, by such means as  
15 postal verification and federal or state locator services, examination of telephone  
16 directories, requests for the obligor's address from employers, and examination of  
17 governmental records, including, to the extent not prohibited by other law, those  
18 relating to real property, vital statistics, law enforcement, taxation, motor vehicles,  
19 driver's licenses, and social security.

20 **§ 15311. Pleadings and Accompanying Documents.**

21 (a) In a proceeding under this Act, a petitioner seeking to establish a support order,  
22 to determine parentage of a child, or to register and modify a support order of a tribunal of  
23 another state or a foreign country must file a petition. Unless otherwise ordered under  
24 Section 15312, the petition or accompanying documents must provide, so far as known, the  
25 name, residential address, and social security numbers of the obligor and the obligee or the  
26 parent and alleged parent, and the name, sex, residential address, social security number,  
27 and date of birth of each child for whose benefit support is sought or whose parentage is to  
28 be determined. Unless filed at the time of registration, the petition must be accompanied by  
29 a copy of any support order known to have been issued by another tribunal. The petition

1 may include any other information that may assist in locating or identifying the  
2 respondent.

3 (b) The petition must specify the relief sought. The petition and accompanying  
4 documents must conform substantially with the requirements imposed by the forms  
5 mandated by federal law for use in cases filed by a support enforcement agency.

6 **§ 15312. Nondisclosure of Information in Exceptional Circumstances.**

7 If a party alleges in an affidavit or a pleading under oath that the health, safety, or  
8 liberty of a party or child would be jeopardized by disclosure of specific identifying  
9 information, that information must be sealed and may not be disclosed to the other party or  
10 the public. After a hearing in which a tribunal takes into consideration the health, safety, or  
11 liberty of the party or child, the tribunal may order disclosure of information that the  
12 tribunal determines to be in the interest of justice.

13 **§ 15313. Costs and Fees.**

14 (a) The petitioner may not be required to pay a filing fee or other costs.

15 (b) If an obligee prevails, a responding tribunal of this state may assess against an  
16 obligor filing fees, reasonable attorney's fees, other costs, and necessary travel and other  
17 reasonable expenses incurred by the obligee and the obligee's witnesses. The tribunal may  
18 not assess fees, costs, or expenses against the obligee or the support enforcement agency of  
19 either the initiating or responding state or foreign country, except as provided by other law.  
20 Attorney's fees may be taxed as costs, and may be ordered paid directly to the attorney,  
21 who may enforce the order in the attorney's own name. Payment of support owed to the  
22 obligee has priority over fees, costs, and expenses.

23 (c) The tribunal shall order the payment of costs and reasonable attorney's fees if it  
24 determines that a hearing was requested primarily for delay. In a proceeding under Article  
25 6, a hearing is presumed to have been requested primarily for delay if a registered support  
26 order is confirmed or enforced without change.

27 **§ 15314. Limited Immunity of Petitioner.**

28 (a) Participation by a petitioner in a proceeding under this Act before a responding  
29 tribunal, whether in person, by private attorney, or through services provided by the

1 support enforcement agency, does not confer personal jurisdiction over the petitioner in  
2 another proceeding.

3 (b) A petitioner is not amenable to service of civil process while physically present  
4 in this state to participate in a proceeding under this Act.

5 (c) The immunity granted by this section does not extend to civil litigation based on  
6 acts unrelated to a proceeding under this Act committed by a party while physically present  
7 in this state to participate in the proceeding.

8 **§ 15315. Nonparentage as Defense.**

9 A party whose parentage of a child has been previously determined by or pursuant  
10 to law may not plead nonparentage as a defense to a proceeding under this Act.

11 **§ 15316. Special Rules of Evidence and Procedure.**

12 (a) The physical presence of a nonresident party who is an individual in a tribunal  
13 of this state is not required for the establishment, enforcement, or modification of a support  
14 order or the rendition of a judgment determining parentage of a child.

15 (b) An affidavit, a document substantially complying with federally mandated  
16 forms, or a document incorporated by reference in any of them, which would not be  
17 excluded under the hearsay rule if given in person, is admissible in evidence if given under  
18 penalty of perjury by a party or witness residing outside this state.

19 (c) A copy of the record of child-support payments certified as a true copy of the  
20 original by the custodian of the record may be forwarded to a responding tribunal. The  
21 copy is evidence of facts asserted in it, and is admissible to show whether payments were  
22 made.

23 (d) Copies of bills for testing for parentage of a child, and for prenatal and postnatal  
24 health care of the mother and child, furnished to the adverse party at least 10 days before  
25 trial, are admissible in evidence to prove the amount of the charges billed and that the  
26 charges were reasonable, necessary, and customary.

27 (e) Documentary evidence transmitted from outside this state to a tribunal of this  
28 state by telephone, telecopier, or other electronic means that do not provide an original  
29 record may not be excluded from evidence on an objection based on the means of

1 transmission.

2 (f) In a proceeding under this Act a tribunal of this state shall permit a party or  
3 witness residing in outside this state to be deposed or to testify under penalty of perjury by  
4 telephone, audiovisual means, or other electronic means at a designated tribunal or other  
5 location. A tribunal of this state shall cooperate with other tribunals in designating an  
6 appropriate location for the deposition or testimony.

7 (g) If a party called to testify at a civil hearing refuses to answer on the ground that  
8 the testimony may be self-incriminating, the trier of fact may draw an adverse inference  
9 from the refusal.

10 (h) A privilege against disclosure of communications between spouses does not  
11 apply in a proceeding under this Act.

12 (i) The defense of immunity based on the relationship of husband and wife or  
13 parent and child does not apply in a proceeding under this Act.

14 (j) A voluntary acknowledgment of paternity, certified as a true copy, is admissible  
15 to establish parentage of the child.

16 **§ 15317. Communications Between Tribunals.**

17 A tribunal of this state may communicate with a tribunal outside this state in a  
18 record or by telephone, electronic mail, or other means, to obtain information concerning  
19 the laws, the legal effect of a judgment, decree, or order of that tribunal, and the status of a  
20 proceeding. A tribunal of this state may furnish similar information by similar means to a  
21 tribunal outside this state.

22 **§ 15318. Assistance with Discovery.**

23 A tribunal of this state may:

24 (1) request a tribunal outside this state to assist in obtaining discovery; and

25 (2) upon request, compel a person over which it has jurisdiction to respond to a  
26 discovery order issued by a tribunal outside this state.

27 **§ 15319. Receipt and Disbursement of Payments.**

28 (a) A support enforcement agency or tribunal of this state shall disburse promptly  
29 any amounts received pursuant to a support order, as directed by the order. The agency or



1           tribunal shall furnish to a requesting party or tribunal of another state or a foreign  
2 country a certified statement by the custodian of the record of the amounts and dates of all  
3 payments received.

4           (b) If neither the obligor, nor the obligee who is an individual, nor the child resides  
5 in this state, upon request from the support enforcement agency of this state or another  
6 state, the support enforcement agency of this state or a tribunal of this state shall:

7                   (1) direct that the support payment be made to the support enforcement  
8 agency in the state in which the obligee is receiving services; and

9                   (2) issue and send to the obligor's employer a conforming income-  
10 withholding order or an administrative notice of change of payee, reflecting the  
11 redirected payments.

12           (c) The support enforcement agency of this state receiving redirected payments  
13 from another state pursuant to a law similar to subsection (b) shall furnish to a requesting  
14 party or tribunal of the other state a certified statement by the custodian of the record of the  
15 amount and dates of all payments received.

16           **Article 4. Establishment of Support Order or Determination of Parentage.**

17           **§ 15401. Establishment of Support Order.**

18           (a) If a support order entitled to recognition under this Act has not been issued, a  
19 responding tribunal of this state with personal jurisdiction over the parties may issue a  
20 support order if:

21                   (1) the individual seeking the order resides outside this state; or

22                   (2) the support enforcement agency seeking the order is located outside this  
23 state.

24           (b) The tribunal may issue a temporary child-support order if the tribunal  
25 determines that such an order is appropriate and the individual ordered to pay is:

26                   (1) a presumed father of the child;

27                   (2) petitioning to have his paternity adjudicated;

28                   (3) identified as the father of the child through genetic testing;

29                   (4) an alleged father who has declined to submit to genetic testing;

- 1 (5) shown by clear and convincing evidence to be the father of the child;
- 2 (6) an acknowledged father as provided by applicable state law;
- 3 (7) the mother of the child; or
- 4 (8) an individual who has been ordered to pay child support in a previous
- 5 proceeding and the order has not been reversed or vacated.

6 (c) Upon finding, after notice and opportunity to be heard, that an obligor owes a

7 duty of support, the tribunal shall issue a support order directed to the obligor and may

8 issue other orders pursuant to Section 15305.

9 **§ 15402. Proceeding to Determine Parentage.**

10 A tribunal of this state authorized to determine parentage of a child may serve as a

11 responding tribunal in a proceeding to determine parentage of a child brought under this

12 Act or a law or procedure substantially similar to this Act.

13 **Article 5. Enforcement of Support Order Without Registration.**

14 **§ 15501. Employer's Receipt of Income-Withholding Order of Another State.**

15 An income-withholding order issued in another state may be sent by or on behalf of

16 the obligee, or by the support enforcement agency, to the person defined as the obligor's

17 employer under the income-withholding law of this state without first filing a petition or

18 comparable pleading or registering the order with a tribunal of this state.

19 **§ 15502. Employer's Compliance with Income-Withholding Order of Another**

20 **State.**

21 (a) Upon receipt of an income-withholding order, the obligor's employer shall

22 immediately provide a copy of the order to the obligor.

23 (b) The employer shall treat an income-withholding order issued in another state

24 which appears regular on its face as if it had been issued by a tribunal of this state.

25 (c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d) and Section 15503, the employer

26 shall withhold and distribute the funds as directed in the withholding order by complying

27 with terms of the order which specify:

- 28 (1) the duration and amount of periodic payments of current child support,
- 29 stated as a sum certain;

1 (2) the person designated to receive payments and the address to which the  
2 payments are to be forwarded;

3 (3) medical support, whether in the form of periodic cash payment, stated as  
4 a sum certain, or ordering the obligor to provide health insurance coverage for the  
5 child under a policy available through the obligor's employment;

6 (4) the amount of periodic payments of fees and costs for a support  
7 enforcement agency, the issuing tribunal, and the obligee's attorney, stated as sums  
8 certain; and

9 (5) the amount of periodic payments of arrearages and interest on  
10 arrearages, stated as sums certain.

11 (d) An employer shall comply with the law of the state of the obligor's principal  
12 place of employment for withholding from income with respect to:

13 (1) the employer's fee for processing an income-withholding order;

14 (2) the maximum amount permitted to be withheld from the obligor's  
15 income; and

16 (3) the times within which the employer must implement the withholding  
17 order and forward the child-support payment.

18 **§ 15503. Employer's Compliance with Two or More Income-Withholding**  
19 **Orders.**

20 If an obligor's employer receives two or more income-withholding orders with  
21 respect to the earnings of the same obligor, the employer satisfies the terms of the orders if  
22 the employer complies with the law of the state of the obligor's principal place of  
23 employment to establish the priorities for withholding and allocating income withheld for  
24 two or more child-support obligees.

25 **§ 15504. Immunity from Civil Liability.**

26 An employer that complies with an income-withholding order issued in another  
27 state in accordance with this Article is not subject to civil liability to an individual or  
28 agency with regard to the employer's withholding of child support from the obligor's  
29 income.

1           **§ 15505. Penalties for Noncompliance.**

2           An employer that willfully fails to comply with an income-withholding order  
3 issued in another state and received for enforcement is subject to the same penalties that  
4 may be imposed for noncompliance with an order issued by a tribunal of this state.

5           **§ 15506. Contest by Obligor.**

6           (a) An obligor may contest the validity or enforcement of an income-withholding  
7 order issued in another state and received directly by an employer in this state by  
8 registering the order in a tribunal of this state and filing a contest to that order as provided  
9 in Article 6, or otherwise contesting the order in the same manner as if the order had been  
10 issued by a tribunal of this state.

11           (b) The obligor shall give notice of the contest to:

12                   (1) a support enforcement agency providing services to the obligee;

13                   (2) each employer that has directly received an income-withholding order  
14 relating to the obligor; and

15                   (3) the person designated to receive payments in the income-withholding  
16 order or, if no person is designated, to the obligee.

17           **§ 15507. Administrative Enforcement of Orders.**

18           (a) A party or support enforcement agency seeking to enforce a support order or an  
19 income-withholding order, or both, issued in another state or a foreign support order may  
20 send the documents required for registering the order to a support enforcement agency of  
21 this state.

22           (b) Upon receipt of the documents, the support enforcement agency, without  
23 initially seeking to register the order, shall consider and, if appropriate, use any  
24 administrative procedure authorized by the law of this state to enforce a support order or an  
25 income-withholding order, or both. If the obligor does not contest administrative  
26 enforcement, the order need not be registered. If the obligor contests the validity or  
27 administrative enforcement of the order, the support enforcement agency shall register the  
28 order pursuant to this Act.

29           **Article 6. Registration, Enforcement, and Modification of Support Order.**

1           **Part 1. Registration for Enforcement of Support Order.**

2           **§ 15601. Registration of Order for Enforcement.**

3           A support order or income-withholding order issued in another state or a foreign  
4 support order may be registered in this state for enforcement.

5           **§ 15602. Procedure to Register Order for Enforcement.**

6           (a) Except as otherwise provided in Section 15706, a support order or income-  
7 withholding order of another state or a foreign support order may be registered in this state  
8 by sending the following records to the appropriate tribunal in this state:

9                   (1) a letter of transmittal to the tribunal requesting registration and  
10 enforcement;

11                   (2) two copies, including one certified copy, of the order to be registered,  
12 including any modification of the order;

13                   (3) a sworn statement by the person requesting registration or a certified  
14 statement by the custodian of the records showing the amount of any arrearage;

15                   (4) the name of the obligor and, if known:

16                           (A) the obligor's address and social security number;

17                           (B) the name and address of the obligor's employer and any other  
18 source of income of the obligor; and

19                           (C) a description and the location of property of the obligor in this  
20 state not exempt from execution; and

21                   (5) except as otherwise provided in Section 15312, the name and address of  
22 the obligee and, if applicable, the person to whom support payments are to be  
23 remitted.

24           (b) On receipt of a request for registration, the registering tribunal shall cause the  
25 order to be filed as an order of a tribunal of another state or a foreign support order,  
26 together with one copy of the documents and information, regardless of their form.

27           (c) A petition or comparable pleading seeking a remedy that must be affirmatively  
28 sought under other law of this state may be filed at the same time as the request for  
29 registration or later. The pleading must specify the grounds for the remedy sought.

1 (d) If two or more orders are in effect, the person requesting registration shall:

2 (1) furnish to the tribunal a copy of every support order asserted to be in  
3 effect in addition to the documents specified in this section;

4 (2) specify the order alleged to be the controlling order, if any; and

5 (3) specify the amount of consolidated arrears, if any.

6 (e) A request for a determination of which is the controlling order may be filed  
7 separately or with a request for registration and enforcement or for registration and  
8 modification. The person requesting registration shall give notice of the request to each  
9 party whose rights may be affected by the determination.

10 **§ 15603. Effect of Registration for Enforcement.**

11 (a) A support order or income-withholding order issued in another state or a foreign  
12 support order is registered when the order is filed in the registering tribunal of this state.

13 (b) A registered support order issued in another state or a foreign country is  
14 enforceable in the same manner and is subject to the same procedures as an order issued by  
15 a tribunal of this state.

16 (c) Except as otherwise provided in this Act, a tribunal of this state shall recognize  
17 and enforce, but may not modify, a registered support order if the issuing tribunal had  
18 jurisdiction.

19 **§ 15604. Choice of Law.**

20 (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d), the law of the issuing state or  
21 foreign country governs:

22 (1) the nature, extent, amount, and duration of current payments under a  
23 registered support order;

24 (2) the computation and payment of arrearages and accrual of interest on the  
25 arrearages under the support order; and

26 (3) the existence and satisfaction of other obligations under the support  
27 order.

28 (b) In a proceeding for arrears under a registered support order, the statute of  
29 limitation of this state, or of the issuing state or foreign country, whichever is longer,

1 applies.

2 (c) A responding tribunal of this state shall apply the procedures and remedies of  
3 this state to enforce current support and collect arrears and interest due on a support order  
4 of another state or a foreign country registered in this state.

5 (d) After a tribunal of this state or another state determines which is the controlling  
6 order and issues an order consolidating arrears, if any, a tribunal of this state shall  
7 prospectively apply the law of the state or foreign country issuing the controlling order,  
8 including its law on interest on arrears, on current and future support, and on consolidated  
9 arrears.

10 **Part 2. Contest of Validity or Enforcement.**

11 **§ 15605. Notice of Registration of Order.**

12 (a) When a support order or income-withholding order issued in another state or a  
13 foreign support order is registered, the registering tribunal of this state shall notify the  
14 nonregistering party. The notice must be accompanied by a copy of the registered order  
15 and the documents and relevant information accompanying the order.

16 (b) A notice must inform the nonregistering party:

17 (1) that a registered support order is enforceable as of the date of  
18 registration in the same manner as an order issued by a tribunal of this state;

19 (2) that a hearing to contest the validity or enforcement of the registered  
20 order must be requested within 20 days after notice unless the registered order is  
21 under Section 15707;

22 (3) that failure to contest the validity or enforcement of the registered order  
23 in a timely manner will result in confirmation of the order and enforcement of the  
24 order and the alleged arrearages; and

25 (4) of the amount of any alleged arrearages.

26 (c) If the registering party asserts that two or more orders are in effect, a notice  
27 must also:

28 (1) identify the two or more orders and the order alleged by the registering  
29 party to be the controlling order and the consolidated arrears, if any;

1           (2) notify the nonregistering party of the right to a determination of which is  
2 the controlling order;

3           (3) state that the procedures provided in subsection (b) apply to the  
4 determination of which is the controlling order; and

5           (4) state that failure to contest the validity or enforcement of the order  
6 alleged to be the controlling order in a timely manner may result in confirmation  
7 that the order is the controlling order.

8           (d) Upon registration of an income-withholding order for enforcement, the support  
9 enforcement agency or the registering tribunal shall notify the obligor's employer pursuant  
10 to the income-withholding law of this state.

11           **§ 15606. Procedure to Contest Validity or Enforcement of Registered Support**  
12 **Order.**

13           (a) A nonregistering party seeking to contest the validity or enforcement of a  
14 registered support order in this state shall request a hearing within the time required by  
15 Section 15605. The nonregistering party may seek to vacate the registration, to assert any  
16 defense to an allegation of noncompliance with the registered order, or to contest the  
17 remedies being sought or the amount of any alleged arrearages pursuant to Section 15607.

18           (b) If the nonregistering party fails to contest the validity or enforcement of the  
19 registered support order in a timely manner, the order is confirmed by operation of law.

20           (c) If a nonregistering party requests a hearing to contest the validity or  
21 enforcement of the registered support order, the registering tribunal shall schedule the  
22 matter for hearing and give notice to the parties of the date, time, and place of the hearing.

23           **§ 15607. Contest of Registration or Enforcement.**

24           (a) A party contesting the validity or enforcement of a registered support order or  
25 seeking to vacate the registration has the burden of proving one or more of the following  
26 defenses:

27                   (1) the issuing tribunal lacked personal jurisdiction over the contesting  
28 party;

29                   (2) the order was obtained by fraud;



1 (3) the order has been vacated, suspended, or modified by a later order;

2 (4) the issuing tribunal has stayed the order pending appeal;

3 (5) there is a defense under the law of this state to the remedy sought;

4 (6) full or partial payment has been made;

5 (7) the statute of limitation under Section 15604 precludes enforcement of  
6 some or all of the alleged arrearages; or

7 (8) the alleged controlling order is not the controlling order.

8 (b) If a party presents evidence establishing a full or partial defense under  
9 subsection (a), a tribunal may stay enforcement of a registered support order, continue the  
10 proceeding to permit production of additional relevant evidence, and issue other  
11 appropriate orders. An uncontested portion of the registered support order may be enforced  
12 by all remedies available under the law of this state.

13 (c) If the contesting party does not establish a defense under subsection (a) to the  
14 validity or enforcement of a registered support order, the registering tribunal shall issue an  
15 order confirming the order.

16 **§ 15608. Confirmed Order.**

17 Confirmation of a registered support order, whether by operation of law or after  
18 notice and hearing, precludes further contest of the order with respect to any matter that  
19 could have been asserted at the time of registration.

20 **Part. 3. Registration and Modification of Child-Support Order of Another**  
21 **State.**

22 **§ 15609. Procedure to Register Child-Support Order of Another State for**  
23 **Modification.**

24 A party or support enforcement agency seeking to modify, or to modify and  
25 enforce, a child-support order issued in another state shall register that order in this state in  
26 the same manner provided in Sections 15601 through 15608 if the order has not been  
27 registered. A petition for modification may be filed at the same time as a request for  
28 registration, or later. The pleading must specify the grounds for modification.

29 **§ 15610. Effect of Registration for Modification.**

1           A tribunal of this state may enforce a child-support order of another state registered  
2 for purposes of modification, in the same manner as if the order had been issued by a  
3 tribunal of this state, but the registered support order may be modified only if the  
4 requirements of Section 15611 or 15613 have been met.

5           **§ 15611. Modification of Child-Support Order of Another State.**

6           (a) If Section 15613 does not apply, upon petition a tribunal of this state may  
7 modify a child-support order issued in another state which is registered in this state if, after  
8 notice and hearing, the tribunal finds that:

9                   (1) the following requirements are met:

10                           (A) neither the child, nor the obligee who is an individual, nor the  
11 obligor resides in the issuing state;

12                           (B) a petitioner who is a nonresident of this state seeks modification;  
13 and

14                           (C) the respondent is subject to the personal jurisdiction of the  
15 tribunal of this state; or

16           (2) this state is the residence of the child, or a party who is an individual is  
17 subject to the personal jurisdiction of the tribunal of this state, and all of the parties  
18 who are individuals have filed consents in a record in the issuing tribunal for a  
19 tribunal of this state to modify the support order and assume continuing, exclusive  
20 jurisdiction.

21           (b) Modification of a registered child-support order is subject to the same  
22 requirements, procedures, and defenses that apply to the modification of an order issued by  
23 a tribunal of this state and the order may be enforced and satisfied in the same manner.

24           (c) A tribunal of this state may not modify any aspect of a child-support order that  
25 may not be modified under the law of the issuing state, including the duration of the  
26 obligation of support. If two or more tribunals have issued child-support orders for the  
27 same obligor and same child, the order that controls and must be so recognized under  
28 Section 15207 establishes the aspects of the support order which are nonmodifiable.

29           (d) In a proceeding to modify a child-support order, the law of the state that is

1 determined to have issued the initial controlling order governs the duration of the  
2 obligation of support. The obligor's fulfillment of the duty of support established by that  
3 order precludes imposition of a further obligation of support by a tribunal of this state.

4 (e) On the issuance of an order by a tribunal of this state modifying a child-support  
5 order issued in another state, the tribunal of this state becomes the tribunal having  
6 continuing, exclusive jurisdiction.

7 (f) Notwithstanding subsections (a) through (e) and Section 15201(b), a tribunal of  
8 this state retains jurisdiction to modify an order issued by a tribunal of this state if:

9 (1) one party resides in another state; and

10 (2) the other party resides outside the United States.

11 **§ 15612. Recognition of Order Modified in Another State.**

12 If a child-support order issued by a tribunal of this state is modified by a tribunal of  
13 another state which assumed jurisdiction pursuant to the Uniform Interstate Family  
14 Support Act, a tribunal of this state:

15 (1) may enforce its order that was modified only as to arrears and interest  
16 accruing before the modification;

17 (2) may provide appropriate relief for violations of its order which occurred  
18 before the effective date of the modification; and

19 (3) shall recognize the modifying order of the other state, upon registration,  
20 for the purpose of enforcement.

21 **§ 15613. Jurisdiction to Modify Child-Support Order of Another State When**  
22 **Individual Parties Reside in this State.**

23 (a) If all of the parties who are individuals reside in this state and the child does not  
24 reside in the issuing state, a tribunal of this state has jurisdiction to enforce and to modify  
25 the issuing state's child-support order in a proceeding to register that order.

26 (b) A tribunal of this state exercising jurisdiction under this section shall apply the  
27 provisions of Articles 1 and 2, this article, and the procedural and substantive law of this  
28 state to the proceeding for enforcement or modification. Articles 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8 do not  
29 apply.

1           **§ 15614. Notice to Issuing Tribunal of Modification.**

2           Within 30 days after issuance of a modified child-support order, the party obtaining  
3 the modification shall file a certified copy of the order with the issuing tribunal that had  
4 continuing, exclusive jurisdiction over the earlier order, and in each tribunal in which the  
5 party knows the earlier order has been registered. A party who obtains the order and fails  
6 to file a certified copy is subject to appropriate sanctions by a tribunal in which the issue of  
7 failure to file arises. The failure to file does not affect the validity or enforceability of the  
8 modified order of the new tribunal having continuing, exclusive jurisdiction.

9           **Part 4. Registration and Modification of Foreign Child-Support Order.**

10          **§ 15615. Jurisdiction to Modify Child-Support Order of Foreign Country.**

11          (a) Except as otherwise provided in Section 15711, if a foreign country lacks or  
12 refuses to exercise jurisdiction to modify its child-support order pursuant to its laws, a  
13 tribunal of this state may assume jurisdiction to modify the child-support order and bind all  
14 individuals subject to the personal jurisdiction of the tribunal whether the consent to  
15 modification of a child-support order otherwise required of the individual pursuant to  
16 Section 15611 has been given or whether the individual seeking modification is a resident  
17 of this state or of the foreign country.

18          (b) An order issued by a tribunal of this state modifying a foreign child-support  
19 order pursuant to this section is the controlling order.

20          **§ 15616. Procedure to Register Child-Support Order of Foreign Country for**  
21 **Modification.**

22          A party or support enforcement agency seeking to modify, or to modify and  
23 enforce, a foreign child-support order not under the Convention may register that order in  
24 this state under Sections 15601 through 15608 if the order has not been registered. A  
25 petition for modification may be filed at the same time as a request for registration, or at  
26 another time. The petition must specify the grounds for modification.

27          **Article 7. Support Proceeding Under Convention**

28          **§ 15701. Definitions.** In this Article:

29          (a) “Application” means a request under the Convention by an obligee or obligor,

1 or on behalf of a child, made through a central authority for assistance from another central  
2 authority.

3 (b) "Central authority" means the entity designated by the United States or a  
4 foreign country described in Section 15102(e)(4) to perform the functions specified in the  
5 Convention.

6 (c) "Convention support order" means a support order of a tribunal of a foreign  
7 country described in Section 15102(e)(4).

8 (d) "Direct request" means a petition filed by an individual in a tribunal of this state  
9 in a proceeding involving an obligee, obligor, or child residing outside the United States.

10 (e) "Foreign central authority" means the entity designated by a foreign country  
11 described in Section 15102(e)(4) to perform the functions specified in the Convention.

12 (f) "Foreign support agreement":

13 (1) means an agreement for support in a record that:

14 (A) is enforceable as a support order in the country of origin;

15 (B) has been:

16 (i) formally drawn up or registered as an authentic  
17 instrument by a foreign tribunal; or

18 (ii) authenticated by, or concluded, registered, or filed with a  
19 foreign tribunal; and

20 (C) may be reviewed and modified by a foreign tribunal; and

21 (2) includes a maintenance arrangement or authentic instrument under the  
22 Convention.

23 (g) "United States central authority" means the Secretary of the United States  
24 Department of Health and Human Services.

25 **§ 15702. Applicability.**

26 This Article applies only to a support proceeding under the Convention. In such a  
27 proceeding, if a provision of this Article is inconsistent with Articles 1 through 6, this  
28 Article controls.

29 **§ 15703. Relationship of Child Support Enforcement Division to United States**

1 **Central Authority.**

2 The Child Support Enforcement Division of this state is recognized as the agency  
3 designated by the United States central authority to perform specific functions under the  
4 Convention.

5 **§ 15704. Initiation by Child Support Enforcement Division of Support**  
6 **Proceeding Under Convention.**

7 (a) In a support proceeding under this Article, the Child Support Enforcement  
8 Division of this state shall:

9 (1) transmit and receive applications; and

10 (2) initiate or facilitate the institution of a proceeding regarding an  
11 application in a tribunal of this state.

12 (b) The following support proceedings are available to an obligee under the  
13 Convention:

14 (1) recognition or recognition and enforcement of a foreign support order;

15 (2) enforcement of a support order issued or recognized in this state;

16 (3) establishment of a support order if there is no existing order, including,  
17 if necessary, determination of parentage of a child;

18 (4) establishment of a support order if recognition of a foreign support order  
19 is refused under Section 15708(b)(2), (4), or (9);

20 (5) modification of a support order of a tribunal of this state; and

21 (6) modification of a support order of a tribunal of another state or a foreign  
22 country.

23 (c) The following support proceedings are available under the Convention to an  
24 obligor against which there is an existing support order:

25 (1) recognition of an order suspending or limiting enforcement of an  
26 existing support order of a tribunal of this state;

27 (2) modification of a support order of a tribunal of this state; and

28 (3) modification of a support order of a tribunal of another state or a foreign  
29 country.

1 (d) A tribunal of this state may not require security, bond, or deposit, however  
2 described, to guarantee the payment of costs and expenses in proceedings under the  
3 Convention.

4 **§ 15705. Direct Request.**

5 (a) A petitioner may file a direct request seeking establishment or modification of a  
6 support order or determination of parentage of a child. In the proceeding, the law of this  
7 state applies.

8 (b) A petitioner may file a direct request seeking recognition and enforcement of a  
9 support order or support agreement. In the proceeding, Sections 15706 through 15713  
10 apply.

11 (c) In a direct request for recognition and enforcement of a Convention support  
12 order or foreign support agreement:

13 (1) a security, bond, or deposit is not required to guarantee the payment of  
14 costs and expenses; and

15 (2) an obligee or obligor that in the issuing country has benefited from free  
16 legal assistance is entitled to benefit, at least to the same extent, from any free legal  
17 assistance provided for by the law of this state under the same circumstances.

18 (d) A petitioner filing a direct request is not entitled to assistance from the Child  
19 Support Enforcement Division.

20 (e) This Article does not prevent the application of laws of this state that provide  
21 simplified, more expeditious rules regarding a direct request for recognition and  
22 enforcement of a foreign support order or foreign support agreement.

23 **§ 15706. Registration of Convention Support Order.**

24 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Article, a party who is an individual or a  
25 support enforcement agency seeking recognition of a Convention support order shall  
26 register the order in this state as provided in Article 6.

27 (b) Notwithstanding Sections 15311 and 15602(a), a request for registration of a  
28 Convention support order must be accompanied by:

29 (1) a complete text of the support order or an abstract or extract of the

1 support order drawn up by the issuing foreign tribunal, which may be in the form  
2 recommended by the Hague Conference on Private International Law;

3 (2) a record stating that the support order is enforceable in the issuing  
4 country;

5 (3) if the respondent did not appear and was not represented in the  
6 proceedings in the issuing country, a record attesting, as appropriate, either that the  
7 respondent had proper notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard or  
8 that the respondent had proper notice of the support order and an opportunity to be  
9 heard in a challenge or appeal on fact or law before a tribunal;

10 (4) a record showing the amount of arrears, if any, and the date the amount  
11 was calculated;

12 (5) a record showing a requirement for automatic adjustment of the amount  
13 of support, if any, and the information necessary to make the appropriate  
14 calculations; and

15 (6) if necessary, a record showing the extent to which the applicant received  
16 free legal assistance in the issuing country.

17 (c) A request for registration of a Convention support order may seek recognition  
18 and partial enforcement of the order.

19 (d) A tribunal of this state may vacate the registration of a Convention support  
20 order without the filing of a contest under Section 15707 only if, acting on its own motion,  
21 the tribunal finds that recognition and enforcement of the order would be manifestly  
22 incompatible with public policy.

23 (e) The tribunal shall promptly notify the parties of the registration or the order  
24 vacating the registration of a Convention support order.

25 **§ 15707. Contest of Registered Convention Support Order.**

26 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Article, Sections 15605 through 15608  
27 apply to a contest of a registered Convention support order.

28 (b) A party contesting a registered Convention support order shall file a contest not  
29 later than 30 days after notice of the registration, but if the contesting party does not reside



1 in the United States, the contest must be filed not later than 60 days after notice of the  
2 registration.

3 (c) If the nonregistering party fails to contest the registered Convention support  
4 order by the time specified in subsection (b), the order is enforceable.

5 (d) A contest of a registered Convention support order may be based only on  
6 grounds set forth in Section 15708. The contesting party bears the burden of proof.

7 (e) In a contest of a registered Convention support order, a tribunal of this state:

8 (1) is bound by the findings of fact on which the foreign tribunal based its  
9 jurisdiction; and

10 (2) may not review the merits of the order.

11 (f) A tribunal of this state deciding a contest of a registered Convention support  
12 order shall promptly notify the parties of its decision.

13 (g) A challenge or appeal, if any, does not stay the enforcement of a Convention  
14 support order unless there are exceptional circumstances.

15 **§ 15708. Recognition and Enforcement of Registered Convention Support**  
16 **Order.**

17 (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b), a tribunal of this state shall  
18 recognize and enforce a registered Convention support order.

19 (b) The following grounds are the only grounds on which a tribunal of this state  
20 may refuse recognition and enforcement of a registered Convention support order:

21 (1) recognition and enforcement of the order is manifestly incompatible  
22 with public policy, including the failure of the issuing tribunal to observe minimum  
23 standards of due process, which include notice and an opportunity to be heard;

24 (2) the issuing tribunal lacked personal jurisdiction consistent with Section  
25 15201;

26 (3) the order is not enforceable in the issuing country;

27 (4) the order was obtained by fraud in connection with a matter of  
28 procedure;

29 (5) a record transmitted in accordance with Section 15706 lacks authenticity

1 or integrity;

2 (6) a proceeding between the same parties and having the same purpose is  
3 pending before a tribunal of this state and that proceeding was the first to be filed;

4 (7) the order is incompatible with a more recent support order involving the  
5 same parties and having the same purpose if the more recent support order is  
6 entitled to recognition and enforcement under this Act in this state;

7 (8) payment, to the extent alleged arrears have been paid in whole or in part;

8 (9) in a case in which the respondent neither appeared nor was represented  
9 in the proceeding in the issuing foreign country:

10 (A) if the law of that country provides for prior notice of  
11 proceedings, the respondent did not have proper notice of the proceedings  
12 and an opportunity to be heard; or

13 (B) if the law of that country does not provide for prior notice of the  
14 proceedings, the respondent did not have proper notice of the order and an  
15 opportunity to be heard in a challenge or appeal on fact or law before a  
16 tribunal; or

17 (10) the order was made in violation of Section 15711.

18 (c) If a tribunal of this state does not recognize a Convention support order under  
19 subsection (b)(2), (4), or (9):

20 (1) the tribunal may not dismiss the proceeding without allowing a  
21 reasonable time for a party to request the establishment of a new Convention  
22 support order; and

23 (2) the Child Support Enforcement Division shall take all appropriate  
24 measures to request a child-support order for the obligee if the application for  
25 recognition and enforcement was received under Section 15704.

26 **§ 15709. Partial Enforcement.**

27 If a tribunal of this state does not recognize and enforce a Convention support order  
28 in its entirety, it shall enforce any severable part of the order. An application or direct  
29 request may seek recognition and partial enforcement of a Convention support order.

1           **§ 15710. Foreign Support Agreement.**

2           (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (c) and (d), a tribunal of this state  
3 shall recognize and enforce a foreign support agreement registered in this state.

4           (b) An application or direct request for recognition and enforcement of a foreign  
5 support agreement must be accompanied by:

6                     (1) a complete text of the foreign support agreement; and

7                     (2) a record stating that the foreign support agreement is enforceable as an  
8 order of support in the issuing country.

9           (c) A tribunal of this state may vacate the registration of a foreign support  
10 agreement only if, acting on its own motion, the tribunal finds that recognition and  
11 enforcement would be manifestly incompatible with public policy.

12           (d) In a contest of a foreign support agreement, a tribunal of this state may refuse  
13 recognition and enforcement of the agreement if it finds:

14                     (1) recognition and enforcement of the agreement is manifestly  
15 incompatible with public policy;

16                     (2) the agreement was obtained by fraud or falsification;

17                     (3) the agreement is incompatible with a support order involving the same  
18 parties and having the same purpose in this state, another state, or a foreign country  
19 if the support order is entitled to recognition and enforcement under this Act in this  
20 state; or

21                     (4) the record submitted under subsection (b) lacks authenticity or integrity.

22           (e) A proceeding for recognition and enforcement of a foreign support agreement  
23 must be suspended during the pendency of a challenge to or appeal of the agreement before  
24 a tribunal of another state or a foreign country.

25           **§ 15711. Modification of Convention Child-Support Order.**

26           (a) A tribunal of this state may not modify a Convention child-support order if the  
27 obligee remains a resident of the foreign country where the support order was issued  
28 unless:

29                     (1) the obligee submits to the jurisdiction of a tribunal of this state, either

1 expressly or by defending on the merits of the case without objecting to the  
2 jurisdiction at the first available opportunity; or

3 (2) the foreign tribunal lacks or refuses to exercise jurisdiction to modify its  
4 support order or issue a new support order.

5 (b) If a tribunal of this state does not modify a Convention child-support order  
6 because the order is not recognized in this state, Section 15708(c) applies.

7 **§ 15712. Personal Information; Limit on Use.**

8 Personal information gathered or transmitted under this Article may be used only  
9 for the purposes for which it was gathered or transmitted.

10 **§ 15713. Record in Original Language; English Translation.**

11 A record filed with a tribunal of this state under this Article must be in the original  
12 language and, if not in English, must be accompanied by an English translation.

13 **Article 8. Interstate Rendition.**

14 **§ 15801. Grounds for Rendition.**

15 (a) For purposes of this Article, “governor” includes an individual performing the  
16 functions of governor or the executive authority of a state covered by this Act.

17 (b) The governor of this state may:

18 (1) demand that the governor of another state surrender an individual found  
19 in the other state who is charged criminally in this state with having failed to  
20 provide for the support of an obligee; or

21 (2) on the demand of the governor of another state, surrender an individual  
22 found in this state who is charged criminally in the other state with having failed to  
23 provide for the support of an obligee.

24 (c) A provision for extradition of individuals not inconsistent with this Act applies  
25 to the demand even if the individual whose surrender is demanded was not in the  
26 demanding state when the crime was allegedly committed and has not fled therefrom.

27 **§ 15802. Conditions of Rendition.**

28 (a) Before making a demand that the governor of another state surrender an  
29 individual charged criminally in this state with having failed to provide for the support of

1 an obligee, the governor of this state may require a prosecutor of this state to demonstrate  
2 that at least 60 days previously the obligee had initiated proceedings for support pursuant  
3 to this Act or that the proceeding would be of no avail.

4 (b) If, under this Act or a law substantially similar to this Act, the governor of  
5 another state makes a demand that the governor of this state surrender an individual  
6 charged criminally in that state with having failed to provide for the support of a child or  
7 other individual to whom a duty of support is owed, the governor may require a prosecutor  
8 to investigate the demand and report whether a proceeding for support has been initiated or  
9 would be effective. If it appears that a proceeding would be effective but has not been  
10 initiated, the governor may delay honoring the demand for a reasonable time to permit the  
11 initiation of a proceeding.

12 (c) If a proceeding for support has been initiated and the individual whose rendition  
13 is demanded prevails, the governor may decline to honor the demand. If the petitioner  
14 prevails and the individual whose rendition is demanded is subject to a support order, the  
15 governor may decline to honor the demand if the individual is complying with the support  
16 order.

17 **Article 9. Miscellaneous Provisions.**

18 **§ 15901. Uniformity of Application and Construction.**

19 In applying and construing this Uniform Act, consideration must be given to the  
20 need to promote uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among states that  
21 enact it.

22 **§ 15902. Transitional Provision.**

23 This Act applies to all child support proceedings pending as of its effective date  
24 and to all proceedings begun on or after the effective date of this Act to establish a support  
25 order or determine parentage of a child or to register, recognize, enforce, or modify a prior  
26 support order, determination, or agreement, whenever issued or entered.”

27 **Section 7. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such  
28 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent  
29 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or

1 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

2       **Section 8. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not  
3 be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under  
4 statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes.  
5 Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant  
6 to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any  
7 way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the  
8 date this Act becomes effective.

9       **Section 9. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the  
10 Governor or becoming law without such approval.

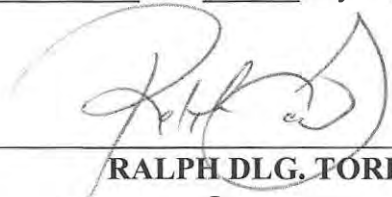
**CERTIFIED BY:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**ARNOLD I. PALACIOS**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**

**ATTESTED BY:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**JUSTO S. QUITUGUA**  
**SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY**

*Approved* this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2017

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**RALPH DLG. TORRES**  
**Governor**  
**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**