

Subject Garnishment Forms; Execution of Judgments; Debt Collection

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Summary

This bill amends the statutory forms used to garnish the wages and bank accounts of a person who has a court ordered judgement against them. Chapter 550 covers the enforcement of judgments and contains numerous forms that are sent to a debtor prior to garnishing their wages or assets. The forms are also used to claim exemptions, such as wages or money in the bank that cannot be garnished including Social Security benefits or public assistance payments like MFIP. A 2024 law directed the Attorney General to update the statutory forms.

The forms are being updated to conform with the changes to the garnishment laws (chapter 571) that were passed in 2024 (Laws 2024, chapter 114). Those changes include the percentage of income that can be garnished for a debt (between 0-25% depending on the income of the debtor), and the limits for the value of exempt assets and household items. Some of the changes took effect on August 1, 2024, and some of the changes will be effective on April 1, 2025.

Because the law on garnishment and exemptions changed, all the forms used to execute a judgment needed to be updated to reflect those changes. The form updates include clarifying, grammatical, and technical changes to the forms as well.