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## Overview

This bill adopts the 2008 amendments to the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA). The amendments to the act implement procedures established by the Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance for processing international child support cases. This Convention was signed by the United States in November 2007.

- **1 Definitions.** Amends § 518C.101. Adds definitions of "convention," "foreign country," "foreign support order," "foreign tribunal," "issuing foreign country," "outside this state," "person," and "record." Adds the term "foreign country" to the definition of a home state. Strikes the definition of "initiating state." Modifies various definitions to include foreign tribunals and foreign orders.
- 2 State tribunal and support enforcement agency. Amends § 518C.102, including the head note. Adds that the Department of Human Services and county enforcement agencies are the support enforcement agencies of Minnesota.
- **3 Remedies cumulative.** Amends §518C.103. Adds that this chapter is not the exclusive method of enforcing or establishing a support order nor does it grant a tribunal in this state the authority to enter judgment or issue an order related to custody or parenting time.
- 4 Application of chapter to resident of foreign country and foreign support proceeding. Creates § 518C.105. Establishes the procedures for support proceedings involving a foreign support order, a foreign tribunal, or an obligee, obligor, or child living in a foreign country.
- **5 Bases for jurisdiction over nonresident.** Amends §518C.201. Clarifies that to acquire personal jurisdiction to modify a child support order from another, jurisdiction must be obtained under the section related to modification of child support orders from another state.
- **6 Duration of personal jurisdiction.** Amends § 518C.202, including head note. Provides that when the court acquires personal jurisdiction relating to a support order this continues for as long as the court has continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify its order or continuing jurisdiction to enforce its order.

- 7 Initiating and responding tribunal of this state. Amends §518C.203. Makes technical change related to foreign orders.
- 8 Simultaneous proceedings in another state. Amends §518C.204. Adds the term "foreign country."
- **9 Continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify child support order.** Amends § 518C.205. Clarifies that this section applies only to child support orders, and does not include jurisdiction over spousal support orders.
- **10** Enforcement and modification of support order by tribunal having continuing jurisdiction. Amends § 518C.206. Specifies that a Minnesota court that has issued a child support order can request another state's court to enforce the Minnesota order and enforce a judgment for arrears as long as Minnesota retains jurisdiction of the case.
- **11 Recognition of controlling child support order.** Amends § 518C.207. Sets out the procedure for establishing which child support order is controlling when more than one order has been entered involving the same child and the same obligor.
- 12 Child support orders for two or more obligees. Amends § 518C.208, including the head note. Deletes obsolete language and adds language to include orders from foreign countries.
- **13 Credit for payments.** Amends §518C.209. Instructs a Minnesota tribunal to credit child support collected pursuant to any child support order from this state, another state, or a foreign country against the amounts owed for support of the child.
- **14 Application to nonresident subject to personal jurisdiction.** Creates § 518C.210. Permits a Minnesota tribunal that has personal jurisdiction over a nonresident to receive evidence from outside the state, communicate with a tribunal outside the state, and obtain discovery through a tribunal outside this state.
- **15 Continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify spousal support order.** Creates § 518C.211. Provides that a Minnesota tribunal that has issued a spousal support order has continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify the order throughout the life of the order. Prohibits a Minnesota tribunal from modifying a spousal support order from another state or foreign country that has continuing, exclusive jurisdiction.
- **16 Proceedings under this chapter.** Amends § 518C.301. Makes technical changes to conform with the 2008 amendments to UIFSA.
- 17 Application of law of this state. Amends § 518C.303. Makes technical changes.
- **18 Duties of initiating tribunal.** Amends § 518C.304. Provides that when a foreign country has not enacted a law substantially similar to this law, then Minnesota may issue documents required by that country, including converting the amount of support owed into the equivalent currency of the foreign country.
- **19 Duties and powers of responding tribunal.** Amends § 518C.305. Provides that when Minnesota enforces a support order, arrears, or judgment from a foreign country, the state shall convert the amount stated in foreign currency to the equivalent amount in dollars.
- 20 Inappropriate tribunal. Amends § 518C.306. Makes a technical change.
- 21 Duties of support enforcement agency. Amends § 518C.307. Instructs the child support agency that requests registration of a child support order to ensure the order to be registered is the controlling order, or if two or more orders exist, then request a determination from the tribunal having

jurisdiction which order is controlling.

Allows the child support agency to convert an order or judgment in foreign currency to dollars.

Instructs the child support agency to ask the court for a child support and income withholding order if requested to do so by a child support agency from another state.

- **22 Duty of attorney general.** Amends § 518C.308. Adds that the attorney general may determine that a foreign country has established a reciprocal agreement with Minnesota and take appropriate action for notification.
- **23 Duties of the state information agency.** Amends § 518C.310. Adds clarifying language to include orders issued in foreign countries.
- 24 Pleadings and accompanying documents. Amends § 518C.311. Makes technical changes.
- 25 Nondisclosure of information in exceptional circumstances. Amends § 518C.312. Clarifies that if a party alleges, under oath, that the safety of the party or a child would be jeopardized by disclosure of identifying information, then the information must be sealed. Permits the court after a hearing to order disclosure of information the court determines to be in the interests of justice.
- 26 Costs and fees. Amends § 518C.313. Corrects a cross reference. Adds language to conform with the 2008 UIFSA amendments.
- **27 Limited immunity of petitioner.** Amends § 518C.314. Adds clarifying language.
- **28** Special rules of evidence and procedure. Amends § 518C.316. Makes technical changes. Adds that a voluntary acknowledgement of paternity, certified to be true, is admissible to establish parentage.
- **29 Communications between tribunals.** Amends § 415C.317. Adds that a tribunal of this state can communicate with a tribunal of another state by e-mail.
- **30 Assistance with discovery.** Amends § 518C.318. Makes technical changes.
- **31 Receipt and disbursement of payments.** Amends § 518C.319. Sets out the requirements for redirection of child support payments when none of the parties reside in the state. Sets out the requirements when child support is redirected to Minnesota.
- **32 Establishment of support order.** Amends § 518C.401, including the head note. Allows a Minnesota court to issue a child support order if the court has personal jurisdiction over the parties if the person seeking the order lives out of state or the agency seeking the order is located outside the state. Sets out the requirements under which the court can establish a temporary child support order.
- **33 Proceeding to determine parentage.** Creates § 518C.402. Allows a Minnesota court to be the responding tribunal and determine parentage of a child.
- **34 Employer's receipt of income-withholding order of another state.** Amends § 518C.501. Makes a technical change.
- **35 Employer's compliance with two or more income-withholding orders.** Amends § 518C.503, including the head note. Strikes the word "multiple" and substitutes "two or more."
- **36 Immunity from civil liability.** Amends § 518C.504. Makes a technical change.
- **37 Penalties for noncompliance.** Amends § 518C.505. Makes a technical change.

- **38 Contest by obligor.** Amends § 518C.506. Requires an obligor who contests an income withholding order that has been sent directly to the employer to register the order with a Minnesota court as provided in this chapter.
- **39** Administrative enforcement of orders. Amends § 518C.508. Makes technical changes to conform to the 2008 UIFSA amendments.
- **40 Registration of order for enforcement.** Amends § 518C.601. Makes conforming changes.
- **41 Procedure to register order for enforcement.** Amends § 518C.602. Makes technical changes. Sets out the requirements for registration when two or more orders are in effect.
- 42 Effect of registration for enforcement. Amends § 518C.603. Makes conforming changes.
- **43 Choice of law.** Amends § 518C.604. Sets out the criteria to determine when the laws of a particular state or foreign country govern.
- 44 Notice of registration of order. Amends § 518C.605. Makes technical changes to conform to the 2008 UIFSA amendments. Sets out the notice requirements when there are two or more orders.
- **45 Procedure to contest validity or enforcement of registered support order.** Amends § 518C.606, including head note. Makes technical changes.
- **46 Contest of registration or enforcement.** Amends § 518C.607. Adds that registration or enforcement of an order can be contested when a party alleges the controlling order is not the controlling order.
- 47 Confirmed order. Amends § 518C.608. Makes a technical change.
- **48 Procedure to register child support order of another state for modification.** Amends § 518C.609. Corrects a cross reference.
- **49** Effect of registration for modification. Amends § 518C.610. Makes a technical change and adds a cross reference.
- **50 Modification of child support order of another state.** Amends § 518C.611. Makes technical and clarifying changes.
- 51 **Recognition of order modified in another state.** Amends § 518C.612. Makes technical changes.
- 52 Jurisdiction to modify support order of another state when individual parties reside in this state. Amends § 518C.613. Corrects cross references.
- **53 Jurisdiction to modify child support order of foreign country.** Creates § 518C.615. Provides that if a foreign country doesn't exercise jurisdiction to modify its child support order and is not a signatory to the convention, then a court of this state may assume jurisdiction and bind all individuals subject to the personal jurisdiction of the court. Provides that an order issued by this state modifying a foreign order under this section is the controlling order.
- 54 Procedure to register child support order of a foreign country for modification. Creates § 518C.616. Allows a party or support enforcement agency that wants to modify or enforce a foreign child support order not under the convention to register the order in this state.
- **55 Definitions.** Amends § 518C.701, including the head note. Defines "application," "central authority," "convention support order," "direct request," "foreign central authority," "foreign support agreement," and "United States central authority."

- **56 Applicability.** Creates § 518C.702. Provides that sections 518C.701 to 518C.713 apply only to support proceedings under the convention.
- **57 Relationship of the Department of Human Services to United States central authority.** Creates § 518C.703. Provides that the Minnesota Department of Human Services is the designee of the U.S. central authority to perform specific convention functions.
- **58 Initiation by Department of Human Services of support proceeding under convention.** Creates § 518C.704. Provides that DHS shall transmit and receive applications, and initiate or facilitate initiation of proceedings regarding an application in a tribunal of the state. Lists the types of support procedures available to obligees and obligors. Prohibits a tribunal of the state from requiring a bond, security, or deposit to guarantee payment of costs.
- **59 Direct request.** Creates § 518C.705. Permits a petitioner to file a direct request for establishment or modification of a support order or recognition and enforcement of a support order. Provides that if a petitioner files a direct request, then the petitioner is not entitled to assistance from DHS. Bond, security, or deposit is not required, and a party who had the benefit of free legal assistance in the issuing country is entitled to benefit from free legal assistance as provided by law in this state.
- **60 Registration of convention support order.** Creates § 518C.706. Sets out the requirements for registering a convention support order including the documents and records that must be transmitted.
- 61 Contest of registered convention support order. Creates § 518C.707. Requires the individual contesting the order to file a contest no later than 30 days after notice of registration, unless the contesting party lives outside the U.S., then no later than 60 days after notice. Provides that if the registration is not contested within the time limits, the order is enforceable. Provides a reference to the grounds for contest. Places the burden of proof on the contesting party. States that a challenge or appeal does not stay enforcement of the order unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- 62 Recognition and enforcement of a registered convention support order. Creates § 518C.708. Requires a court of this state to recognize a convention support order unless recognition of the order is manifestly incompatible with public policy, the issuing tribunal lacked personal jurisdiction, the order is not enforceable in the issuing country, the order was obtained by fraud, a record lacks authenticity, or among other things, a proceeding involving the same parties for the same purpose is pending before a tribunal of this state.
- **63 Partial enforcement.** Creates § 518C.709. Provides that if a tribunal of this state does not recognize a convention support order in its entirety, the tribunal is to enforce any severable portion of the order.
- 64 Foreign support agreement. Creates § 518C.710. Requires a tribunal of this state to recognize and enforce a foreign support agreement when accompanied by required documentation unless the tribunal finds recognition and enforcement would be manifestly incompatible with public policy. Lists the bases for such a finding.
- 65 Modification of convention child support order. Creates § 518C.711. Describes the circumstances under which a tribunal of this state can modify a convention order when the obligee is a resident of a foreign country.
- **66 Personal information; limit on use.** Creates § 518C.712. Limits use of personal information to the purposes for which it was gathered or transmitted.
- 67 **Record in original language; English translation.** Creates § 518C.713. Requires records to be filed in the original language, and if this is not English, then an English translation must accompany the record.

- **68 Grounds for rendition.** Amends § 518C.801. Adds a cross reference.
- **69 Transitional provision.** Amends § 518C.902. Provides that this chapter applies to proceedings begun on or after the effective date of this act.
- **70 Short title.** Creates § 518C.905. States that this chapter may be known as the "Uniform Interstate Family Support Act."
- 71 **Revisor's instruction.** Instructs the revisor the renumber certain sections and correct references in statutes and rules.
- 72 **Repealer.** Repeals § 518C.502 (Administrative enforcement of orders).
- 73 Effective date. States the conditions under which this act becomes effective.