

HB 2374 -- Child Support

Sponsor: Jones (89)

This bill changes the laws regarding child support. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Requires the hearing officer, when making a determination of the amount of a parent's financial responsibility, to consider the factors in Section 452.340, RSMo. Currently, the officer must use the scale and formula for minimum support obligations established by the Department of Social Services under Section 454.480;
- (2) Requires a notice issued by an agency entitled to receive and disburse child support payments in Missouri to advise the obligor of the procedures available to contest a lien on the obligor's workers' compensation benefits on the grounds that the lien is improper due to a mistake of fact by requesting a hearing within 30 days of the mailing date of the notice. The certified copy of the court order and the sworn or certified statement of arrearages will constitute prima facie evidence that the department director's order is valid and enforceable. If a prima facie case is established, the obligor can only assert mistake of fact as a defense. The obligor will have the burden of proof on these issues; and
- (3) Specifies that a current support obligation must not be recorded in the automated child support system when the obligation of a parent to make child support payments is deemed terminated under Section 452.340.