



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6486

January Session, 2009

* HB06486KIDHS_030509 *

AN ACT CONCERNING RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD AND STRONG FAMILIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective October 1, 2009*) (a) The Chief Court
2 Administrator shall establish, within available appropriations, a
3 Problem-Solving Court Demonstration pilot program in at least one
4 family court designated by the Chief Court Administrator. The pilot
5 program shall improve responsible fatherhood and strengthen low-
6 income families by offering services to and establishing requirements
7 for noncustodial fathers in arrears on child support payments.

8 (b) The pilot program shall utilize existing municipal, state and
9 federal resources and existing services within the community to (1)
10 provide case management, parenting education and legal counsel for
11 pilot program participants; and (2) partner with regional community-
12 technical colleges designated by the Chief Court Administrator to
13 provide literacy, educational and job training services to fathers at risk
14 of incarceration due to their failure to make child support payments.

15 (c) The Chief Court Administrator shall report, in accordance with
16 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the pilot
17 program to the select committee of the General Assembly having
18 cognizance of matters relating to children no later than July 1, 2011.

19 Sec. 2. Section 46b-215d of the general statutes is repealed and the
20 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

21 [Notwithstanding the child support guidelines established pursuant
22 to section 46b-215a, in cases in which an obligor is an hourly wage
23 earner and has worked less than forty-five hours per week at the time
24 of the establishment of the support order, any additional income
25 earned from working more than forty-five hours per week shall not be
26 considered income for purposes of such guidelines.] Child support
27 arrears in excess of five hundred dollars shall not accrue when a
28 noncustodial parent's income is at or below the federal poverty level,
29 provided the noncustodial parent is receiving literacy, educational or
30 job training services and the court determines that cessation of the
31 accrual of such arrears is in the best interests of the child.

32 Sec. 3. Section 17b-27a of the general statutes is repealed and the
33 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2009*):

34 (a) There is established within the Department of Social Services,
35 within available appropriations, the John S. Martinez Fatherhood
36 Initiative. Said initiative shall promote the positive involvement and
37 interaction of fathers with their children with an emphasis on children
38 eligible or formerly eligible for services funded by the temporary
39 assistance for needy families block grant and shall identify those
40 services that effectively encourage and enhance responsible and
41 skillful parenting and those services that increase the ability of fathers
42 to meet the financial and medical needs of their children through
43 employment services and child support enforcement measures. The
44 objectives of the initiative shall be to: (1) Promote public education
45 concerning the financial and emotional responsibilities of fatherhood;
46 (2) assist men in preparation for the legal, financial and emotional
47 responsibilities of fatherhood; (3) promote the establishment of
48 paternity at childbirth; (4) encourage fathers, regardless of marital
49 status, to foster their emotional connection to and financial support of
50 their children; (5) establish support mechanisms for fathers in their
51 relationship with their children, regardless of their marital and

52 financial status; and (6) integrate state and local services available for
53 families.

54 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall issue an annual report
55 to the select committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
56 matters relating to children, in accordance with the provisions of
57 section 11-4a, regarding (1) the effectiveness of any child support
58 arrears management efforts, (2) any teen pregnancy efforts aimed at
59 reducing teen fatherhood, (3) the number of noncustodial parents
60 participating in job training programs, (4) the number of newly
61 employed noncustodial parents, and (5) the number of noncustodial
62 parents with incomes at or below the federal poverty level.

63 (c) If federal funds are available that may be used for programs that
64 promote the objectives described in subsection (a) of this section, the
65 commissioner shall award grants to entities for such programs. The
66 commissioner shall require each grantee to make available services
67 funded under the grant to noncustodial and custodial parents.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2009	New section
Sec. 2	October 1, 2009	46b-215d
Sec. 3	October 1, 2009	17b-27a

KID

Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

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