

HB 1557 -- Child Support Insurance

Sponsor: Shoemyer (9)

This bill establishes the Child Support Insurance Program within the Department of Social Services. The program allows custodial parents to receive child support insurance payments for a qualified child in certain circumstances. The custodial parent must apply for participation in the program, establish the paternity of the child, obtain a child support order for the child, assign his or her right to collect under the child support order to the State of Missouri, opt not to receive cash assistance from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program, be employed and have an income below specified levels, and reside in a county with a high percentage of at-risk children.

The parental child support responsibility payments are primarily funded by child support paid by the noncustodial parent. The General Assembly may provide other necessary funding subject to appropriations. The state retains the monthly payments made by the noncustodial parent in the amount specified in the child support order as reimbursement of the parental child support responsibility payment. If the noncustodial parent's payment is less than the amount in the child support order or if the noncustodial parent makes no child support payment, the noncustodial parent owes the amount of the deficiency or the entire amount to the state. Appropriations from general revenue for this program can be counted toward the state's maintenance-of-effort for the TANF Program.

A noncustodial parent who is more than two months behind in child support obligations must be referred to the Parent's Fair Share Program. If a noncustodial parent is referred to the program and refuses to participate or is not making progress, he or she is subject to all penalties available for failure to pay child support. A noncustodial parent who has been in the Parent's Fair Share Program for five years and who is not making at least the current child support payment is presumed to have failed the program and must be referred to the department for penalties for failure to pay child support.