

HB 2208 -- Child Support

Sponsor: Meadows

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

(1) Specifies that the Missouri Supreme Court's child support guidelines, commonly known as Form 14, must require documentation to verify the income of the parties for the initial order of support and for any modification of the order including current wage stubs, a current W-2 form, statements from the party's employer, a wage match with the Division of Employment Security within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, and bank statements;

(2) Prohibits an award of child support when:

(a) Both parents sign an agreement requesting the court not to award child support and to award joint physical custody resulting in the child or children spending equal or substantially equal time with both parents;

(b) The difference in verified incomes of the parents is less than 25%; and

(c) A finding has been made that the joint custody and award of no child support is in the best interest of the child;

(3) Requires the court to award child support in an amount that provides up to a 50% adjustment below the basic child support amount authorized by the guidelines for custody awards of children spending equal or substantially equal time with both parents if the parents do not agree on an award of no child support but meet all of the other requirements; and

(4) Requires the Missouri Supreme Court to amend the guidelines to reflect the ability to obtain up to a 50% adjustment for joint custody.