
HOUSE BILL 1631

State of Washington

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By Representatives Costa, Kenney, Dickerson, Ogden, Mason, Regala and Lantz; by request of Washington Uniform Legislation Commission

Read first time 02/03/97. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to the uniform interstate family support act;
2 amending RCW 26.21.005, 26.21.115, 26.21.135, 26.21.235, 26.21.245,
3 26.21.255, 26.21.265, 26.21.450, 26.21.520, 26.21.580, 26.21.590, and
4 26.21.620; and adding new sections to chapter 26.21 RCW.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 26.21.005 and 1993 c 318 s 101 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 In this chapter:

9 (1) "Child" means an individual, whether over or under the age of
10 majority, who is or is alleged to be owed a duty of support by the
11 individual's parent or who is or is alleged to be the beneficiary of a
12 support order directed to the parent.

13 (2) "Child support order" means a support order for a child,
14 including a child who has attained the age of majority under the law of
15 the issuing state.

16 (3) "Duty of support" means an obligation imposed or imposable by
17 law to provide support for a child, spouse, or former spouse, including
18 an unsatisfied obligation to provide support.

1 (4) "Home state" means the state in which a child lived with a
2 parent or a person acting as parent for at least six consecutive months
3 immediately preceding the time of filing of a petition or comparable
4 pleading for support and, if a child is less than six months old, the
5 state in which the child lived from birth with any of them. A period
6 of temporary absence of any of them is counted as part of the six-month
7 or other period.

8 (5) "Income" includes earnings or other periodic entitlements to
9 money from any source and any other property subject to withholding for
10 support under the law of this state.

11 (6) "Income-withholding order" means an order or other legal
12 process directed to an obligor's employer or other debtor, as defined
13 by chapter 6.27 RCW, to withhold support from the income of the
14 obligor.

15 (7) "Initiating state" means a state (~~(in)~~) from which a proceeding
16 is forwarded or in which a proceeding is filed for forwarding to a
17 responding state under this chapter or a law or procedure substantially
18 similar to this chapter, or under a law or procedure substantially
19 similar to the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act, or the
20 Revised Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act (~~(is filed for~~
21 ~~forwarding to a responding state)~~).

22 (8) "Initiating tribunal" means the authorized tribunal in an
23 initiating state.

24 (9) "Issuing state" means the state in which a tribunal issues a
25 support order or renders a judgment determining parentage.

26 (10) "Issuing tribunal" means the tribunal that issues a support
27 order or renders a judgment determining parentage.

28 (11) "Law" includes decisional and statutory law and rules and
29 regulations having the force of law.

30 (12) "Obligee" means:

31 (a) An individual to whom a duty of support is or is alleged to be
32 owed or in whose favor a support order has been issued or a judgment
33 determining parentage has been rendered;

34 (b) A state or political subdivision to which the rights under a
35 duty of support or support order have been assigned or which has
36 independent claims based on financial assistance provided to an
37 individual obligee; or

38 (c) An individual seeking a judgment determining parentage of the
39 individual's child.

1 (13) "Obligor" means an individual, or the estate of a decedent:
2 (a) Who owes or is alleged to owe a duty of support;
3 (b) Who is alleged but has not been adjudicated to be a parent of
4 a child; or
5 (c) Who is liable under a support order.
6 (14) "Register" means to record or file in the appropriate location
7 for the recording or filing of foreign judgments generally or foreign
8 support orders specifically, a support order or judgment determining
9 parentage.
10 (15) "Registering tribunal" means a tribunal in which a support
11 order is registered.
12 (16) "Responding state" means a state ~~((to))~~ in which a proceeding
13 is filed or to which a proceeding is forwarded for filing from an
14 initiating state under this chapter or a law substantially similar to
15 this chapter~~((7))~~ or under a law or procedure substantially similar to
16 the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act((7)) or the Revised
17 Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act.
18 (17) "Responding tribunal" means the authorized tribunal in a
19 responding state.
20 (18) "Spousal support order" means a support order for a spouse or
21 former spouse of the obligor.
22 (19) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of
23 Columbia, ~~((the Commonwealth of))~~ Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin
24 Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the
25 jurisdiction of the United States. The term ~~(("state"))~~ includes:
26 (a) An Indian tribe; and ~~((includes))~~
27 (b) A foreign jurisdiction that has enacted a law or established
28 procedures for issuance and enforcement of support orders that are
29 substantially similar to the procedures under this chapter, the Uniform
30 Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act, or the Revised Uniform
31 Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act.
32 (20) "Support enforcement agency" means a public official or agency
33 authorized to seek:
34 (a) Enforcement of support orders or laws relating to the duty of
35 support;
36 (b) Establishment or modification of child support;
37 (c) Determination of parentage; or
38 (d) Location of obligors or their assets.

1 (21) "Support order" means a judgment, decree, or order, whether
2 temporary, final, or subject to modification, for the benefit of a
3 child, a spouse, or a former spouse, that provides for monetary
4 support, health care, arrearages, or reimbursement, and may include
5 related costs and fees, interest, income withholding, attorneys' fees,
6 and other relief.

7 (22) "Tribunal" means a court, administrative agency, or quasi-
8 judicial entity authorized to establish, enforce, or modify support
9 orders or to determine parentage.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 26.21.115 and 1993 c 318 s 205 are each amended to
11 read as follows:

12 (1) A tribunal of this state issuing a support order consistent
13 with the law of this state has continuing, exclusive jurisdiction over
14 a child support order:

15 (a) As long as this state remains the residence of the obligor, the
16 individual obligee, or the child for whose benefit the support order is
17 issued; or

18 (b) Until ((~~each individual party has~~)) all of the parties who are
19 individuals have filed written consents with the tribunal of this state
20 for a tribunal of another state to modify the order and assume
21 continuing, exclusive jurisdiction.

22 (2) A tribunal of this state issuing a child support order
23 consistent with the law of this state may not exercise its continuing
24 jurisdiction to modify the order if the order has been modified by a
25 tribunal of another state pursuant to this chapter or a law
26 substantially similar to this chapter.

27 (3) If a child support order of this state is modified by a
28 tribunal of another state pursuant to this chapter or a law
29 substantially similar to this chapter, a tribunal of this state loses
30 its continuing, exclusive jurisdiction with regard to prospective
31 enforcement of the order issued in this state, and may only:

32 (a) Enforce the order that was modified as to amounts accruing
33 before the modification;

34 (b) Enforce nonmodifiable aspects of that order; and

35 (c) Provide other appropriate relief for violations of that order
36 which occurred before the effective date of the modification.

37 (4) A tribunal of this state shall recognize the continuing,
38 exclusive jurisdiction of a tribunal of another state that has issued

1 a child support order pursuant to this chapter or a law substantially
2 similar to this chapter.

3 (5) A temporary support order issued ex parte or pending resolution
4 of a jurisdictional conflict does not create continuing, exclusive
5 jurisdiction in the issuing tribunal.

6 (6) A tribunal of this state issuing a support order consistent
7 with the law of this state has continuing, exclusive jurisdiction over
8 a spousal support order throughout the existence of the support
9 obligation. A tribunal of this state may not modify a spousal support
10 order issued by a tribunal of another state having continuing,
11 exclusive jurisdiction over that order under the law of that state.

12 **Sec. 3.** RCW 26.21.135 and 1993 c 318 s 207 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 (1) If a proceeding is brought under this chapter and only one
15 tribunal has issued a child support order, the order of that tribunal
16 is controlling and must be recognized.

17 (2) If a proceeding is brought under this chapter, and ~~((one))~~ two
18 or more child support orders have been issued ~~((in))~~ by tribunals of
19 this state or another state with regard to ~~((an))~~ the same obligor and
20 ~~((a))~~ child, a tribunal of this state shall apply the following rules
21 in determining which order to recognize for purposes of continuing,
22 exclusive jurisdiction:

23 (a) ~~If ((only one tribunal has issued a child support order, the~~
24 ~~order of that tribunal must be recognized.~~

25 (b) ~~If two or more tribunals have issued child support orders for~~
26 ~~the same obligor and child, and))~~ only one of the tribunals would have
27 continuing, exclusive jurisdiction under this chapter, the order of
28 that tribunal is controlling and must be recognized.

29 ~~((c))~~ (b) ~~If ((two or more tribunals have issued child support~~
30 ~~orders for the same obligor and child, and))~~ more than one of the
31 tribunals would have continuing, exclusive jurisdiction under this
32 chapter, an order issued by a tribunal in the current home state of the
33 child is controlling and must be recognized, but if an order has not
34 been issued in the current home state of the child, the order most
35 recently issued is controlling and must be recognized.

36 ~~((d))~~ (c) ~~If ((two or more tribunals have issued child support~~
37 ~~orders for the same obligor and child, and))~~ none of the tribunals
38 would have continuing, exclusive jurisdiction under this chapter, the

1 tribunal of this state (~~may~~) having jurisdiction over the parties
2 shall issue a child support order, which is controlling and must be
3 recognized.

4 (~~(2)~~) (3) If two or more child support orders have been issued
5 for the same obligor and child and if the obligor or the individual
6 obligee resides in this state, a party may request a tribunal of this
7 state to determine which order controls and must be recognized under
8 subsection (2) of this section. The request must be accompanied by a
9 certified copy of every support order in effect. The requesting party
10 shall give notice of the request to each party whose rights may be
11 affected by the determination.

12 (4) The tribunal that (~~has~~) issued (~~an~~) the order that must be
13 recognized as controlling under subsection (1), (2), or (3) of this
14 section is the tribunal (~~having~~) that has continuing, exclusive
15 jurisdiction in accordance with RCW 26.21.115.

16 (5) A tribunal of this state which determines by order the identity
17 of the controlling order under subsection (2)(a) or (b) of this section
18 or which issues a new controlling order under subsection (2)(c) of this
19 section shall include in that order the basis upon which the tribunal
20 made its determination.

21 (6) Within thirty days after issuance of an order determining the
22 identity of the controlling order, the party obtaining that order shall
23 file a certified copy of it with each tribunal that had issued or
24 registered an earlier order of child support. Failure of the party
25 obtaining the order to file a certified copy as required subjects that
26 party to appropriate sanctions by a tribunal in which the issue of
27 failure to file arises, but that failure has no effect on the validity
28 or enforceability of the controlling order.

29 **Sec. 4.** RCW 26.21.235 and 1993 c 318 s 304 are each amended to
30 read as follows:

31 (1) Upon the filing of a petition authorized by this chapter, an
32 initiating tribunal of this state shall forward three copies of the
33 petition and its accompanying documents:

34 (~~(1)~~) (a) To the responding tribunal or appropriate support
35 enforcement agency in the responding state; or

36 (~~(2)~~) (b) If the identity of the responding tribunal is unknown,
37 to the state information agency of the responding state with a request

1 that they be forwarded to the appropriate tribunal and that receipt be
2 acknowledged.

3 (2) If a responding state has not enacted this chapter or a law or
4 procedure substantially similar to this chapter, a tribunal of this
5 state may issue a certificate or other documents and make findings
6 required by the law of the responding state. If the responding state
7 is a foreign jurisdiction, the tribunal may specify the amount of
8 support sought and provide other documents necessary to satisfy the
9 requirements of the responding state.

10 **Sec. 5.** RCW 26.21.245 and 1993 c 318 s 305 are each amended to
11 read as follows:

12 (1) When a responding tribunal of this state receives a petition or
13 comparable pleading from an initiating tribunal or directly pursuant to
14 RCW 26.21.205(3), it shall cause the petition or pleading to be filed
15 and notify the petitioner (~~by first class mail~~) where and when it was
16 filed.

17 (2) A responding tribunal of this state, to the extent otherwise
18 authorized by law, may do one or more of the following:

19 (a) Issue or enforce a support order, modify a child support order,
20 or render a judgment to determine parentage;

21 (b) Order an obligor to comply with a support order, specifying the
22 amount and the manner of compliance;

23 (c) Order income withholding;

24 (d) Determine the amount of any arrearages, and specify a method of
25 payment;

26 (e) Enforce orders by civil or criminal contempt, or both;

27 (f) Set aside property for satisfaction of the support order;

28 (g) Place liens and order execution on the obligor's property;

29 (h) Order an obligor to keep the tribunal informed of the obligor's
30 current residential address, telephone number, employer, address of
31 employment, and telephone number at the place of employment;

32 (i) Issue a bench warrant or writ of arrest for an obligor who has
33 failed after proper notice to appear at a hearing ordered by the
34 tribunal and enter the bench warrant or writ of arrest in any local and
35 state computer systems for criminal warrants;

36 (j) Order the obligor to seek appropriate employment by specified
37 methods;

38 (k) Award reasonable attorneys' fees and other fees and costs; and

1 (1) Grant any other available remedy.

2 (3) A responding tribunal of this state shall include in a support
3 order issued under this chapter, or in the documents accompanying the
4 order, the calculations on which the support order is based.

5 (4) A responding tribunal of this state may not condition the
6 payment of a support order issued under this chapter upon compliance by
7 a party with provisions for visitation.

8 (5) If a responding tribunal of this state issues an order under
9 this chapter, the tribunal shall send a copy of the order (~~by first~~
10 ~~class mail~~) to the petitioner and the respondent and to the initiating
11 tribunal, if any.

12 **Sec. 6.** RCW 26.21.255 and 1993 c 318 s 306 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 If a petition or comparable pleading is received by an
15 inappropriate tribunal of this state, it shall forward the pleading and
16 accompanying documents to an appropriate tribunal in this state or
17 another state and notify the petitioner (~~by first class mail~~) where
18 and when the pleading was sent.

19 **Sec. 7.** RCW 26.21.265 and 1993 c 318 s 307 are each amended to
20 read as follows:

21 (1) A support enforcement agency of this state, upon request, shall
22 provide services to a petitioner in a proceeding under this chapter.

23 (2) A support enforcement agency that is providing services to the
24 petitioner as appropriate shall:

25 (a) Take all steps necessary to enable an appropriate tribunal in
26 this state or another state to obtain jurisdiction over the respondent;

27 (b) Request an appropriate tribunal to set a date, time, and place
28 for a hearing;

29 (c) Make a reasonable effort to obtain all relevant information,
30 including information as to income and property of the parties;

31 (d) Within two days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal
32 holidays, after receipt of a written notice from an initiating,
33 responding, or registering tribunal, send a copy of the notice (~~by~~
34 ~~first class mail~~) to the petitioner;

35 (e) Within two days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal
36 holidays, after receipt of a written communication from the respondent

1 or the respondent's attorney, send a copy of the communication ((by
2 first class mail)) to the petitioner; and

3 (f) Notify the petitioner if jurisdiction over the respondent
4 cannot be obtained.

5 (3) This chapter does not create or negate a relationship of
6 attorney and client or other fiduciary relationship between a support
7 enforcement agency or the attorney for the agency and the individual
8 being assisted by the agency.

9 **Sec. 8.** RCW 26.21.450 and 1993 c 318 s 501 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 ((~~(1)~~)) An income-withholding order issued in another state may be
12 sent ((~~by first class mail~~)) to the person or entity defined as the
13 obligor's employer under chapter 6.27 RCW without first filing a
14 petition or comparable pleading or registering the order with a
15 tribunal of this state. ((~~Upon receipt of the order, the employer~~
16 ~~shall:~~

17 ~~(a) Treat an income withholding order issued in another state that~~
18 ~~appears regular on its face as if it had been issued by a tribunal of~~
19 ~~this state;~~

20 ~~(b) Immediately provide a copy of the order to the obligor; and~~

21 ~~(c) Distribute the funds as directed in the income withholding~~
22 ~~order.~~

23 ~~(2) An obligor may contest the validity or enforcement of an~~
24 ~~income withholding order issued in another state in the same manner as~~
25 ~~if the order had been issued by a tribunal of this state. RCW~~
26 ~~26.21.510 applies to the contest. The obligor shall give notice of the~~
27 ~~contest to any support enforcement agency providing services to the~~
28 ~~obligee and to:~~

29 ~~(a) The person or agency designated to receive payments in the~~
30 ~~income withholding order; or~~

31 ~~(b) If no person or agency is designated, the obligee.))~~

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A new section is added to chapter 26.21 RCW
33 to read as follows:

34 (1) Upon receipt of an income-withholding order, the obligor's
35 employer shall immediately provide a copy of the order to the obligor.

1 (2) The employer shall treat an income-withholding order issued in
2 another state which appears regular on its face as if it had been
3 issued by a tribunal of this state.

4 (3) Except as provided by subsection (4) of this section and
5 section 10 of this act, the employer shall withhold and distribute the
6 funds as directed in the withholding order by complying with the terms
7 of the order, as applicable, that specify:

8 (a) The duration and the amount of periodic payments of current
9 child support, stated as a sum certain;

10 (b) The person or agency designated to receive payments and the
11 address to which the payments are to be forwarded;

12 (c) Medical support, whether in the form of periodic cash payment,
13 stated as a sum certain, or ordering the obligor to provide health
14 insurance coverage for the child under a policy available through the
15 obligor's employment;

16 (d) The amount of periodic payments of fees and costs for a support
17 enforcement agency, the issuing tribunal, and the obligee's attorney,
18 stated as sums certain; and

19 (e) The amount of periodic payments of arrears and interest on
20 arrears, stated as sums certain.

21 (4) The employer shall comply with the law of the state of the
22 obligor's principal place of employment for withholding from income
23 with respect to:

24 (a) The employer's fee for processing an income-withholding order;

25 (b) The maximum amount permitted to be withheld from the obligor's
26 income; and

27 (c) The time periods within which the employer must implement the
28 withholding order and forward the child support payment.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** A new section is added to chapter 26.21 RCW
30 to read as follows:

31 If the obligor's employer receives multiple orders to withhold
32 support from the earnings of the same obligor, the employer shall be
33 deemed to have satisfied the terms of the multiple orders if the law of
34 the state of the obligor's principal place of employment to establish
35 the priorities for withholding and allocating income withheld for
36 multiple child support obligees is complied with.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** A new section is added to chapter 26.21 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 An employer who complies with an income-withholding order issued in
4 another state in accordance with this article is not subject to civil
5 liability to any individual or agency with regard to the employer's
6 withholding child support from the obligor's income.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** A new section is added to chapter 26.21 RCW
8 to read as follows:

9 An employer who willfully fails to comply with an income-
10 withholding order issued by another state and received for enforcement
11 is subject to the same penalties that may be imposed for noncompliance
12 with an order issued by a tribunal of this state.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** A new section is added to chapter 26.21 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 (1) An obligor may contest the validity or enforcement of an
16 income-withholding order issued in another state and received directly
17 by an employer in this state in the same manner as if the order had
18 been issued by a tribunal of this state. RCW 26.21.510 applies to the
19 contest.

20 (2) The obligor shall give notice of the contest to:

21 (a) A support enforcement agency providing services to the obligee;

22 (b) Each employer which has directly received an income-withholding
23 order; and

24 (c)(i) The person or agency designated to receive payments in the
25 income-withholding order; or

26 (ii) If no person or agency is designated, the obligee.

27 **Sec. 14.** RCW 26.21.520 and 1993 c 318 s 605 are each amended to
28 read as follows:

29 (1) When a support order or income-withholding order issued in
30 another state is registered, the registering tribunal shall notify the
31 nonregistering party. (~~Notice must be given by certified or~~
32 ~~registered mail or by any means of personal service authorized by the~~
33 ~~law of this state.)) The notice must be accompanied by a copy of the
34 registered order and the documents and relevant information
35 accompanying the order.~~

36 (2) The notice must inform the nonregistering party:

1 (a) That a registered order is enforceable as of the date of
2 registration in the same manner as an order issued by a tribunal of
3 this state;

4 (b) That a hearing to contest the validity or enforcement of the
5 registered order must be requested within twenty days after the date of
6 receipt by certified or registered mail or personal service of the
7 notice given to a nonregistering party within the state and within
8 sixty days after the date of receipt by certified or registered mail or
9 personal service of the notice on a nonregistering party outside of the
10 state;

11 (c) That failure to contest the validity or enforcement of the
12 registered order in a timely manner will result in confirmation of the
13 order and enforcement of the order and the alleged arrearages and
14 precludes further contest of that order with respect to any matter that
15 could have been asserted; and

16 (d) Of the amount of any alleged arrearages.

17 (3) Upon registration of an income-withholding order for
18 enforcement, the registering tribunal shall notify the obligor's
19 employer pursuant to the income-withholding law of this state.

20 **Sec. 15.** RCW 26.21.580 and 1993 c 318 s 611 are each amended to
21 read as follows:

22 (1) After a child support order issued in another state has been
23 registered in this state, unless the provisions of section 17 of this
24 act apply the responding tribunal of this state may modify that order
25 only if, after notice and hearing, it finds that:

26 (a) The following requirements are met:

27 (i) The child, the individual obligee, and the obligor do not
28 reside in the issuing state;

29 (ii) A petitioner who is a nonresident of this state seeks
30 modification; and

31 (iii) The respondent is subject to the personal jurisdiction of the
32 tribunal of this state; or

33 (b) (~~An individual party or~~) The child or a party who is an
34 individual is subject to the personal jurisdiction of the tribunal of
35 this state and all of the (~~individual~~) parties who are individuals
36 have filed (~~a~~) written consents in the issuing tribunal (~~providing~~
37 ~~that~~) for a tribunal of this state (~~may~~) to modify the support order
38 and assume continuing, exclusive jurisdiction over the order. However,

1 if the issuing state is a foreign jurisdiction that has not enacted or
2 established procedures substantially similar to the procedures under
3 this chapter, the consent otherwise required of an individual residing
4 in this state is not required for the tribunal to assume jurisdiction
5 to modify the child support order.

6 (2) Modification of a registered child support order is subject to
7 the same requirements, procedures, and defenses that apply to the
8 modification of an order issued by a tribunal of this state and the
9 order may be enforced and satisfied in the same manner.

10 (3) A tribunal of this state may not modify any aspect of a child
11 support order that may not be modified under the law of the issuing
12 state. If two or more tribunals have issued child support orders for
13 the same obligor and child, the order that controls and must be so
14 recognized under RCW 26.21.135 establishes the aspects of the support
15 order that are nonmodifiable.

16 (4) On issuance of an order modifying a child support order issued
17 in another state, a tribunal of this state becomes the tribunal ((of))
18 having continuing, exclusive jurisdiction.

19 ~~((5) Within thirty days after issuance of a modified child support
20 order, the party obtaining the modification shall file a certified copy
21 of the order with the issuing tribunal which had continuing, exclusive
22 jurisdiction over the earlier order, and in each tribunal in which the
23 party knows that earlier order has been registered.))~~

24 **Sec. 16.** RCW 26.21.590 and 1993 c 318 s 612 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 A tribunal of this state shall recognize a modification of its
27 earlier child support order by a tribunal of another state that assumed
28 jurisdiction pursuant to this chapter or a law substantially similar to
29 this chapter and, upon request, except as otherwise provided in this
30 chapter, shall:

31 (1) Enforce the order that was modified only as to amounts accruing
32 before the modification;

33 (2) Enforce only nonmodifiable aspects of that order;

34 (3) Provide other appropriate relief only for violations of that
35 order which occurred before the effective date of the modification;
36 and

37 (4) Recognize the modifying order of the other state, upon
38 registration, for the purpose of enforcement.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 17.** A new section is added to chapter 26.21 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) If all of the individual parties reside in this state and the
4 child does not reside in the issuing state, a tribunal of this state
5 has jurisdiction to enforce and to modify the issuing state's child
6 support order in a proceeding to register that order.

7 (2) A tribunal of this state exercising jurisdiction as provided in
8 this section shall apply the provisions of Articles 1 and 2 of this
9 chapter and this article to the enforcement or modification proceeding.
10 Articles 3 through 5 and Articles 7 and 8 of this chapter do not apply
11 and the tribunal shall apply the procedural and substantive law of this
12 state.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 18.** A new section is added to chapter 26.21 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 Within thirty days after issuance of a modified child support
16 order, the party obtaining the modification shall file a certified copy
17 of the order with the issuing tribunal that had continuing, exclusive
18 jurisdiction over the earlier order, and in each tribunal in which the
19 party knows the earlier order has been registered. Failure of the
20 party obtaining the order to file a certified copy as required subjects
21 that party to appropriate sanctions by a tribunal in which the issue of
22 failure to file arises, but that failure has no effect on the validity
23 or enforceability of the modified order of the new tribunal of
24 continuing, exclusive jurisdiction.

25 **Sec. 19.** RCW 26.21.620 and 1993 c 318 s 701 are each amended to
26 read as follows:

27 (1) A tribunal of this state may serve as an initiating or
28 responding tribunal in a proceeding brought under this chapter or a law
29 or procedure substantially similar to this chapter, the Uniform
30 Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act, or the Revised Uniform
31 Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act to determine that the petitioner
32 is a parent of a particular child or to determine that a respondent is
33 a parent of that child.

34 (2) In a proceeding to determine parentage, a responding tribunal
35 of this state shall apply the Uniform Parentage Act, chapter 26.26 RCW,

1 procedural and substantive law of this state, and the rules of this
2 state on choice of law.

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