

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1763

To increase the effectiveness of child support enforcement and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 21, 2013

Mr. ROCKEFELLER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To increase the effectiveness of child support enforcement and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Child Support Enforce-
5 ment Effectiveness Act of 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. COMMISSION ON CHILD SUPPORT.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established a
8 Commission to be known as the Commission on Child Sup-
9 port (referred to in this section as the “Commission”).

10 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

1 (1) APPOINTMENT.—The Commission shall be
2 composed of 15 members, to be appointed not later
3 than 30 days after the date of enactment of this
4 Act, as follows:

5 (A) The majority and minority leaders of
6 the Senate, in consultation with the chairman
7 and ranking member of the Committee on Fi-
8 nance of the Senate, shall jointly appoint 4
9 members.

10 (B) The Speaker and the minority leader
11 of the House, in consultation with the chairman
12 and ranking member of the Committee on Ways
13 and Means of the House of Representatives,
14 shall jointly appoint 4 members.

15 (C) The Secretary of Health and Human
16 Services shall appoint 7 members.

17 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The membership of the
18 Commission shall consist of individuals who are
19 knowledgeable on issues regarding child support and
20 related activities and shall include, among others, in-
21 dividuals representing the interests of parents, in-
22 cluding noncustodial parents.

23 (3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; QUORUM.—The
24 provisions under paragraphs (2) and (3) of section
25 126 of the Family Support Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C.

1 666 note) providing for appointment of members
2 and quorum for transaction of business shall apply
3 to the Commission to the same extent and in the
4 same manner as those provisions applied to the
5 Commission on Interstate Child Support.

6 (4) MEETINGS.—

7 (A) INITIAL MEETING.—Following appoint-
8 ment of all of the members of the Commission,
9 the first meeting of the Commission shall be
10 held on the first date for which all members are
11 available (as is determined by the Secretary of
12 Health and Human Services).

13 (B) CHAIRMAN.—During the first meeting
14 of the Commission, the Commission shall elect
15 a chairman from among its members.

16 (C) OTHER MEETINGS.—Following the
17 first meeting of the Commission, any subse-
18 quent meetings shall be at the call of the chair-
19 man or by a majority vote of the membership.

20 (D) OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.—All meetings
21 of the Commission shall be open to the public
22 and any interested persons shall be permitted to
23 appear at open meetings and present oral or
24 written statements on the subject matter of the
25 meeting, subject to such requirements and limi-

1 tations as are determined appropriate by the
2 chairman. All meetings of the Commission shall
3 be preceded by timely public notice in the Fed-
4 eral Register of the time, place, and subject of
5 the meeting.

6 (5) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Commis-
7 sion are not entitled to receive compensation for
8 service on the Commission. Members may be reim-
9 bursed for travel expenses, including per diem in lieu
10 of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of title
11 5, United States Code.

12 (c) DUTIES.—

13 (1) REVIEW OF CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT
14 PROGRAMS.—The Commission shall conduct an eval-
15 uation of the effectiveness of existing child support
16 enforcement programs and collection practices em-
17 ployed by State agencies administering programs
18 under part D of title IV of the Social Security Act
19 (42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.), including a review of any
20 unintended consequences or performance issues asso-
21 ciated with such programs and practices.

22 (2) NATIONAL CONFERENCES.—During fiscal
23 years 2014 and 2015, the Commission shall hold 1
24 or more national conferences on child support re-

1 form for purposes of preparing the report described
2 in paragraph (3).

3 (3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than Oc-
4 tober 1, 2015, the Commission shall prepare and
5 submit a report to Congress that contains rec-
6 ommendations for such legislative and administrative
7 actions as the Commission determines appropriate
8 for improvement in child support enforcement, in-
9 cluding the following:

10 (A) Methods to enhance the effectiveness
11 of child support enforcement programs and col-
12 lection practices, as determined pursuant to the
13 Commission’s review of such programs and
14 practices under paragraph (1).

15 (B) Implementation of distribution policies
16 that ensure children are the beneficiaries of
17 child support paid by noncustodial parents.

18 (C) Fostering engagement by noncustodial
19 parents in their children’s lives by consideration
20 of parental time and visitation with children in
21 determining child support, and the role for al-
22 ternative dispute resolution in making such de-
23 termination.

24 (D) Development of best practices for pur-
25 poses of connecting custodial parents to services

1 and support programs, including services for
2 parents who are victims of domestic violence.

3 (E) Development of best practices for pur-
4 poses of employment support, job training, and
5 job placement for custodial and noncustodial
6 parents.

7 (F) Establishment of services, supports,
8 and child support payment tracking for non-
9 custodial parents, including options for preven-
10 tion and intervention on uncollectible arrearages
11 such as retroactive obligations and Medicaid
12 birthing costs.

13 (G) Development of options for States to
14 collect child support payments from individuals
15 who owe arrearages in excess of \$2,500.

16 (d) POWERS.—The provisions under section 126(e) of
17 the Family Support Act of 1988 providing for use of
18 mails, donations, procurement and contracting authority,
19 and establishment of rules shall apply to the Commission
20 to the same extent and in the same manner as those provi-
21 sions applied to the Commission on Interstate Child Sup-
22 port.

23 (e) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate
24 60 days after submission of the report described in sub-
25 section (c)(3).

1 (f) FUNDING.—

2 (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For
3 purposes of carrying out this section, there is au-
4 thorized to be appropriated \$2,000,000 for the pe-
5 riod of fiscal years 2014 through 2015.

6 (2) UNOBLIGATED AMOUNTS.—Any amounts
7 made available under this section that are unobli-
8 gated on the date of the termination of the Commis-
9 sion under subsection (e) shall be returned to the
10 Treasury of the United States.

11 **SEC. 3. REINSTATEMENT OF FEDERAL MATCHING OF**
12 **STATE SPENDING OF CHILD SUPPORT INCEN-**
13 **TIVE PAYMENTS.**

14 Effective as if enacted on October 1, 2013, section
15 455(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 655(a)(1))
16 is amended by striking “from amounts paid to the State
17 under section 458 or”.

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