

SB 365

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REGULAR SESSION, 1997



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COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 365

(By Senator CHAFFIN, ET AL)



PASSED APRIL 12, 1997

In Effect NINETY DAYS FROM Passage

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SENATE

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COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR

Senate Bill No. 365

(SENATORS CHAFIN, SPROUSE, KIMBLE, BAILEY,
SNYDER AND WIEDEBUSCH, *original sponsors*)

[Passed April 12, 1997; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to repeal section thirteen, article one-b, chapter forty-eight-a of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended; to amend and reenact sections two, three, four, seventeen, nineteen, twenty-six and thirty-one, article one-a of said chapter; to amend and reenact sections two, three, five, six, seven, nine, eleven and twelve, article one-b of said chapter; and to further amend said article by adding thereto a new section, designated section sixteen, all relating to establishing guidelines for child support award amounts; redefining the terms "adjusted gross income", "attributed income", "automatic data processing and retrieval system",

“extraordinary medical expenses”, “gross income”, “shared physical custody” and “unreimbursed health care expenses”; providing for the calculation of child support orders; establishing monthly basic child support obligations through use of a table; providing for a federal child care tax credit; setting forth a worksheet for the computation of child support orders in sole custody cases; providing for the calculation of child support obligations in cases where there is shared physical custody and setting forth a worksheet for the computation of child support orders in cases of shared physical custody; allowing an adjustment when an obligor’s social security benefits are sent directly to the child; providing for modification of a child support order if there is a substantial change of circumstances; providing for an allocation of the right to claim dependent children for income tax purposes; and authorizing a circuit court to provide for the investment of child support for future educational and other needs of the child.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That section thirteen, article one-b, chapter forty-eight-a of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be repealed; that sections two, three, four, seventeen, nineteen, twenty-six and thirty-one, article one-a of said chapter be amended and reenacted; that sections two, three, five, six, seven, nine, eleven and twelve, article one-b of said chapter be amended and reenacted; and that said article be further amended by adding thereto a new section, designated section sixteen, all to read as follows:

ARTICLE 1A. DEFINITIONS.

§48A-1A-2. Adjusted gross income.

1 (a) “Adjusted gross income” means gross income less the
2 payment of previously ordered child support, spousal
3 support or separate maintenance.

4 (b) A further deduction from gross income for additional
5 dependents may be allowed by the court or master if the
6 parent has legal dependents other than those for whom
7 support is being determined. An adjustment may be used
8 in the establishment of a child support order or in a review
9 of a child support order. However, in cases where a

10 modification is sought, the adjustment should not be used
11 to the extent that it results in a support amount lower
12 than the previously existing order for the children who are
13 the subject of the modification. The court or master may
14 elect to use the following adjustment because it allots
15 equitable shares of support to all of the support obligor's
16 legal dependents. Using the income of the support obligor
17 only, determine the basic child support obligation (from
18 the table of basic child support obligations in section
19 three, article one-b of this chapter) for the number of
20 additional legal dependents living with the support
21 obligor. Multiply this figure by 0.75 and subtract this
22 amount from the support obligor's gross income.

23 (c) As used in this section, the term "legal dependents"
24 means:

25 (1) Minor natural or adopted children who live with the
26 parent; and

27 (2) Natural or adopted adult children who are totally
28 incapacitated because of physical or emotional disabilities
29 and for whom the parent owes a duty of support.

§48A-1A-3. Attributed income.

1 (a) "Attributed income" means income not actually
2 earned by a parent, but which may be attributed to the
3 parent because he or she is unemployed, is not working
4 full time, or is working below full earning capacity, or has
5 nonperforming or under-performing assets. Income may
6 be attributed to a parent if the court or master evaluates
7 the parent's earning capacity in the local economy (giving
8 consideration to relevant evidence that pertains to the
9 parent's work history, qualifications, education and
10 physical or mental condition) and determines that the
11 parent is unemployed, is not working full time, or is
12 working below full earning capacity. Income may also be
13 attributed to a parent if the court or master finds that the
14 obligor has nonperforming or under-performing assets.

15 (b) If an obligor: (1) Voluntarily leaves employment or
16 voluntarily alters his or her pattern of employment so as
17 to be unemployed, underemployed or employed below full

18 earning capacity; (2) is able to work and is available for
19 full-time work for which he or she is fitted by prior
20 training or experience; and (3) is not seeking employment
21 in the manner that a reasonably prudent person in his or
22 her circumstances would do, then an alternative method
23 for the court or master to determine gross income is to
24 attribute to the person an earning capacity based on his or
25 her previous income. If the obligor's work history, qualifi-
26 cations, education or physical or mental condition cannot
27 be determined, or if there is an inadequate record of the
28 obligor's previous income, the court or master may, as a
29 minimum, base attributed income on full-time employ-
30 ment (at forty hours per week) at the federal minimum
31 wage in effect at the time the support obligation is estab-
32 lished.

33 (c) Income shall not be attributed to an obligor who is
34 unemployed or underemployed or is otherwise working
35 below full earning capacity if any of the following condi-
36 tions exist:

37 (1) The parent is providing care required by the children
38 to whom the parties owe a joint legal responsibility for
39 support, and such children are of preschool age or are
40 handicapped or otherwise in a situation requiring particu-
41 lar care by the parent;

42 (2) The parent is pursuing a plan of economic self-
43 improvement which will result, within a reasonable time,
44 in an economic benefit to the children to whom the
45 support obligation is owed, including, but not limited to,
46 self-employment or education: *Provided*, That if the
47 parent is involved in an educational program, the court or
48 master shall ascertain that the person is making substan-
49 tial progress toward completion of the program;

50 (3) The parent is, for valid medical reasons, earning an
51 income in an amount less than previously earned; or

52 (4) The court or master makes a written finding that
53 other circumstances exist which would make the attribu-
54 tion of income inequitable: *Provided*, That in such case,
55 the court or master may decrease the amount of attributed
56 income to an extent required to remove such inequity.

57 (d) The court or master may attribute income to a
58 parent's nonperforming or under-performing assets, other
59 than the parent's primary residence. Assets may be
60 considered to be nonperforming or under-performing to
61 the extent that they do not produce income at a rate
62 equivalent to the current six-month certificate of deposit
63 rate, or such other rate that the court or master deter-
64 mines is reasonable.

§48A-1A-4. Automatic data processing and retrieval system.

1 "Automatic data processing and retrieval system"
2 means a computerized data processing system designed to
3 do the following:

4 (1) To control, account for and monitor all of the factors
5 in the support enforcement collection and paternity
6 determination process, including, but not limited to:

7 (A) Identifiable correlation factors (such as social
8 security numbers, names, dates of birth, home addresses
9 and mailing addresses of any individual with respect to
10 whom support obligations are sought to be established or
11 enforced and with respect to any person to whom such
12 support obligations are owing) to assure sufficient com-
13 patibility among the systems of different jurisdictions to
14 permit periodic screening to determine whether such
15 individual is paying or is obligated to pay support in more
16 than one jurisdiction;

17 (B) Checking of records of such individuals on a periodic
18 basis with federal, interstate, intrastate and local agen-
19 cies;

20 (C) Maintaining the data necessary to meet applicable
21 federal reporting requirements on a timely basis; and

22 (D) Delinquency and enforcement activities;

23 (2) To control, account for and monitor the collection
24 and distribution of support payments (both interstate and
25 intrastate) the determination, collection and distribution
26 of incentive payments (both interstate and intrastate), and
27 the maintenance of accounts receivable on all amounts
28 owed, collected and distributed;

29 (3) To control, account for and monitor the costs of all
30 services rendered, either directly or by exchanging infor-
31 mation with state agencies responsible for maintaining
32 financial management and expenditure information;

33 (4) To provide access to the records of the department of
34 health and human resources in order to determine if a
35 collection of a support payment causes a change affecting
36 eligibility for or the amount of aid under such program;

37 (5) To provide for security against unauthorized access
38 to, or use of, the data in such system;

39 (6) To facilitate the development and improvement of
40 the income withholding and other procedures designed to
41 improve the effectiveness of support enforcement through
42 the monitoring of support payments, the maintenance of
43 accurate records regarding the payment of support and
44 the prompt provision of notice to appropriate officials
45 with respect to any arrearage in support payments which
46 may occur; and

47 (7) To provide management information on all cases
48 from initial referral or application through collection and
49 enforcement.

§48A-1A-17. Extraordinary medical expenses.

1 "Extraordinary medical expenses" means uninsured
2 medical expenses in excess of two hundred fifty dollars
3 per year per child which are recurring and can reasonably
4 be predicted by the court or master at the time of estab-
5 lishment or modification of a child support order. Such
6 expenses shall include, but not be limited to, insurance
7 copayments and deductibles, reasonable costs for neces-
8 sary orthodontia, dental treatment, asthma treatments,
9 physical therapy, vision therapy and eye care, and any
10 uninsured chronic health problem. Nonrecurring or
11 subsequently occurring uninsured medical expenses in
12 excess of two hundred fifty dollars per year per child shall
13 be separately divided between the parties in proportion to
14 their adjusted gross incomes.

§48A-1A-19. Gross income.

1 (a) "Gross income" means all earned and unearned
2 income. The word "income" means gross income unless
3 the word is otherwise qualified or unless a different
4 meaning clearly appears from the context. When deter-
5 mining whether an income source should be included in
6 the child support calculation, the court or master should
7 consider the income source if it would have been available
8 to pay child-rearing expenses had the family remained
9 intact or, in cases involving a nonmarital birth, if a
10 household had been formed.

11 (b) "Gross income" includes, but is not limited to, the
12 following:

13 (1) Earnings in the form of salaries, wages, commissions,
14 fees, bonuses, profit sharing, tips and other income;

15 (2) Any payment from a pension plan, an insurance
16 contract, an annuity, social security benefits, unemploy-
17 ment compensation, supplemental employment benefits,
18 workers' compensation benefits and state lottery winnings
19 and prizes;

20 (3) Interest, dividends or royalties;

21 (4) Expense reimbursements or in kind payments such as
22 business expense accounts, business credit accounts, and
23 tangible property such as automobiles and meals, to the
24 extent that they provide the parent with property or
25 services he or she would otherwise have to provide;

26 (5) Attributed income of the parent, calculated in
27 accordance with the provisions of section three, article
28 one-a of this chapter;

29 (6) Compensation paid for personal services as overtime
30 pay: *Provided*, That overtime compensation may be
31 excluded from gross income if the parent with the over-
32 time income demonstrates to the court or master that the
33 overtime work is voluntarily performed and that he or she
34 did not have a previous pattern of working overtime hours
35 prior to separation or birth of a nonmarital child;

36 (7) Income from self-employment or the operation of a
37 business, minus ordinary and necessary expenses which

38 are not reimbursable, and which are lawfully deductible
39 in computing taxable income under applicable income tax
40 laws, and minus FICA and medicare contributions made
41 in excess of the amount that would be paid on an equal
42 amount of income if the parent was not self-employed:
43 *Provided*, That the amount of monthly income to be
44 included in gross income shall be determined by averaging
45 the income from such employment during the previous
46 thirty-six-month period or during a period beginning with
47 the month in which the parent first received such income,
48 whichever period is shorter;

49 (8) Income from seasonal employment or other sporadic
50 sources: *Provided*, That the amount of monthly income to
51 be included in gross income shall be determined by
52 averaging the income from seasonal employment or other
53 sporadic sources received during the previous thirty-six-
54 month period or during a period beginning with the month
55 in which the parent first received such compensation,
56 whichever period is shorter; and

57 (9) Alimony and separate maintenance receipts.

58 (c) Depending on the circumstances of the particular
59 case, the court or master may also include severance pay,
60 capital gains and net gambling, gifts or prizes as gross
61 income.

62 (d) "Gross Income" does not include:

63 (1) Income received by other household members such as
64 a new spouse;

65 (2) Child support received for the children of another
66 relationship;

67 (3) Means-tested assistance such as aid to families with
68 dependent children, supplemental security income and
69 food stamps; and

70 (4) A child's income unless the court or master deter-
71 mines that the child's income substantially reduces the
72 family's living expenses.

§48A-1A-26. Shared physical custody.

1 "Shared physical custody" means an arrangement under
2 which each parent keeps a child or children overnight for
3 more than thirty-five percent of the year and under which
4 both parents contribute to the expenses of the child or
5 children in addition to the payment of child support.

§48A-1A-31. Unreimbursed health care expenses.

1 "Unreimbursed health care expenses" means the
2 child's portion of health insurance premiums and
3 extraordinary medical expenses.

ARTICLE 1B. GUIDELINES FOR CHILD SUPPORT AWARDS.

§48A-1B-2. Calculation of child support order.

1 (a) Both parents' adjusted gross income, as defined in
2 section two, article one-a of this chapter, is used to
3 determine the amount of child support. Unreimbursed
4 child health care expenses, work-related child care
5 expenses and any other extraordinary expenses agreed to
6 by the parents or ordered by the court or master less any
7 extraordinary credits agreed to by the parents or ordered
8 by the court or master are added to the basic child support
9 obligation to determine the total child support obligation.
10 The child support order is determined by dividing the total
11 child support obligation between the parents in propor-
12 tion to their income.

13 (b) The calculation of the support order amount requires
14 the use of one of two worksheets which must be completed
15 for each case. Worksheet A is used for a sole physical
16 custody arrangement. Worksheet B is used for a shared
17 physical custody arrangement.

§48A-1B-3. Basic child support obligation.

1 (a) The basic child support obligation is determined
2 from the following table of monthly basic child support
3 obligations:

4 MONTHLY BASIC CHILD SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS

5 Combined							
6 Adjusted							
7 Gross							
8 Monthly	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six or more	

9	Income	Child	Children	Children	Children	Children	Children
10	550	121	179	212	234	254	272
11	600	135	200	237	262	283	303
12	650	143	213	253	279	303	324
13	700	151	225	267	295	319	342
14	750	159	237	281	310	336	360
15	800	167	250	296	327	355	380
16	850	176	263	312	344	373	399
17	900	184	276	327	362	392	419
18	950	193	289	343	379	411	439
19	1,000	201	303	358	396	429	459
20	1,050	210	316	374	413	448	479
21	1,100	218	329	389	430	467	499
22	1,150	227	342	405	448	485	519
23	1,200	235	355	420	465	504	539
24	1,250	243	368	436	482	522	558
25	1,300	252	381	451	498	540	577
26	1,350	261	393	465	514	557	596
27	1,400	270	405	479	529	574	614
28	1,450	279	417	493	545	590	632
29	1,500	289	429	507	560	607	650
30	1,550	298	441	521	576	624	668
31	1,600	307	453	535	591	641	686
32	1,650	316	465	549	607	658	704
33	1,700	325	477	563	623	675	722
34	1,750	334	489	578	638	692	740
35	1,800	344	501	592	654	709	758
36	1,850	353	513	606	669	726	776

37	1,900	361	525	620	685	742	794
38	1,950	370	537	634	701	759	812
39	2,000	378	549	648	716	776	831
40	2,050	386	561	662	732	793	849
41	2,100	395	573	676	747	810	867
42	2,150	403	585	690	763	827	885
43	2,200	411	597	704	778	844	903
44	2,250	420	609	718	794	860	921
45	2,300	428	621	732	809	877	939
46	2,350	436	633	746	825	894	957
47	2,400	445	645	760	840	911	975
48	2,450	453	657	774	856	927	992
49	2,500	460	668	787	869	942	1,008
50	2,550	467	677	798	882	956	1,023
51	2,600	474	687	809	894	969	1,037
52	2,650	480	696	820	906	982	1,051
53	2,700	487	706	831	918	995	1,065
54	2,750	494	715	842	930	1,008	1,079
55	2,800	500	725	853	942	1,022	1,093
56	2,850	507	734	864	955	1,035	1,107
57	2,900	514	744	875	967	1,048	1,122
58	2,950	520	753	886	979	1,061	1,136
59	3,000	527	763	897	991	1,074	1,150
60	3,050	534	772	908	1,003	1,088	1,164
61	3,100	540	782	919	1,016	1,101	1,178
62	3,150	546	790	929	1,026	1,113	1,191
63	3,200	551	797	937	1,036	1,123	1,201
64	3,250	556	804	946	1,045	1,133	1,212

65	3,300	560	811	954	1,054	1,143	1,223
66	3,350	565	818	963	1,064	1,153	1,234
67	3,400	570	825	971	1,073	1,163	1,245
68	3,450	575	832	980	1,083	1,174	1,256
69	3,500	579	839	988	1,092	1,184	1,267
70	3,550	584	846	997	1,101	1,194	1,277
71	3,600	589	853	1,005	1,111	1,204	1,288
72	3,650	594	860	1,014	1,120	1,214	1,299
73	3,700	598	867	1,022	1,129	1,224	1,310
74	3,750	603	874	1,030	1,138	1,234	1,320
75	3,800	608	881	1,038	1,148	1,244	1,331
76	3,850	612	887	1,046	1,156	1,253	1,341
77	3,900	616	893	1,052	1,163	1,260	1,348
78	3,950	620	898	1,058	1,169	1,267	1,356
79	4,000	624	904	1,064	1,176	1,275	1,364
80	4,050	628	909	1,070	1,183	1,282	1,372
81	4,100	632	915	1,076	1,190	1,289	1,380
82	4,150	636	920	1,083	1,196	1,297	1,387
83	4,200	640	926	1,089	1,203	1,304	1,395
84	4,250	644	931	1,095	1,210	1,311	1,403
85	4,300	648	937	1,101	1,217	1,319	1,411
86	4,350	652	942	1,107	1,223	1,326	1,419
87	4,400	657	948	1,113	1,230	1,333	1,427
88	4,450	661	953	1,119	1,237	1,341	1,434
89	4,500	665	959	1,125	1,244	1,348	1,442
90	4,550	669	964	1,131	1,250	1,355	1,450
91	4,600	671	969	1,136	1,255	1,361	1,456
92	4,650	674	972	1,141	1,260	1,366	1,462

93	4,700	677	976	1,145	1,265	1,372	1,468
94	4,750	679	980	1,150	1,270	1,377	1,473
95	4,800	682	984	1,154	1,275	1,382	1,479
96	4,850	684	987	1,158	1,280	1,387	1,484
97	4,900	687	991	1,163	1,285	1,392	1,490
98	4,950	689	995	1,167	1,289	1,398	1,495
99	5,000	692	998	1,171	1,294	1,403	1,501
100	5,050	694	1,002	1,176	1,299	1,408	1,506
101	5,100	697	1,006	1,180	1,304	1,413	1,512
102	5,150	700	1,010	1,185	1,309	1,419	1,518
103	5,200	703	1,014	1,189	1,314	1,424	1,524
104	5,250	704	1,015	1,191	1,317	1,427	1,527
105	5,300	709	1,023	1,200	1,326	1,437	1,538
106	5,350	714	1,030	1,208	1,335	1,447	1,549
107	5,400	719	1,037	1,216	1,344	1,457	1,559
108	5,450	725	1,045	1,225	1,353	1,467	1,570
109	5,500	730	1,052	1,233	1,363	1,477	1,580
110	5,550	735	1,059	1,241	1,372	1,487	1,591
111	5,600	740	1,066	1,250	1,381	1,497	1,602
112	5,650	745	1,074	1,258	1,390	1,507	1,612
113	5,700	750	1,081	1,266	1,399	1,517	1,623
114	5,750	756	1,088	1,275	1,409	1,527	1,634
115	5,800	761	1,096	1,283	1,418	1,537	1,644
116	5,850	766	1,103	1,291	1,427	1,547	1,655
117	5,900	771	1,110	1,299	1,436	1,557	1,666
118	5,950	776	1,117	1,308	1,445	1,567	1,676
119	6,000	781	1,124	1,315	1,454	1,576	1,686
120	6,050	785	1,130	1,322	1,461	1,584	1,695

121	6,100	789	1,135	1,329	1,469	1,592	1,703
122	6,150	793	1,141	1,336	1,476	1,600	1,712
123	6,200	797	1,147	1,343	1,484	1,609	1,721
124	6,250	801	1,153	1,350	1,491	1,617	1,730
125	6,300	805	1,158	1,356	1,499	1,625	1,738
126	6,350	809	1,164	1,363	1,507	1,633	1,747
127	6,400	813	1,170	1,370	1,514	1,641	1,756
128	6,450	817	1,176	1,377	1,522	1,649	1,765
129	6,500	821	1,182	1,384	1,529	1,658	1,773
130	6,550	825	1,187	1,391	1,537	1,666	1,782
131	6,600	829	1,193	1,397	1,544	1,674	1,791
132	6,650	833	1,199	1,404	1,552	1,682	1,800
133	6,700	837	1,205	1,411	1,559	1,690	1,809
134	6,750	841	1,211	1,418	1,567	1,699	1,817
135	6,800	845	1,216	1,425	1,575	1,707	1,826
136	6,850	849	1,222	1,432	1,582	1,715	1,835
137	6,900	853	1,228	1,438	1,590	1,723	1,844
138	6,950	857	1,234	1,445	1,597	1,731	1,852
139	7,000	861	1,240	1,452	1,605	1,740	1,861
140	7,050	865	1,246	1,460	1,613	1,748	1,871
141	7,100	870	1,253	1,467	1,621	1,757	1,881
142	7,150	874	1,259	1,475	1,630	1,766	1,890
143	7,200	879	1,266	1,482	1,638	1,776	1,900
144	7,250	883	1,272	1,490	1,646	1,785	1,910
145	7,300	888	1,279	1,497	1,655	1,794	1,919
146	7,350	893	1,285	1,505	1,663	1,803	1,929
147	7,400	897	1,292	1,513	1,671	1,812	1,939
148	7,450	902	1,298	1,520	1,680	1,821	1,949

149	7,500	906	1,305	1,528	1,688	1,830	1,958
150	7,550	911	1,311	1,535	1,697	1,839	1,968
151	7,600	915	1,318	1,543	1,705	1,848	1,978
152	7,650	920	1,324	1,550	1,713	1,857	1,987
153	7,700	925	1,331	1,558	1,722	1,866	1,997
154	7,750	929	1,337	1,566	1,730	1,875	2,007
155	7,800	934	1,344	1,573	1,738	1,884	2,017
156	7,850	938	1,350	1,581	1,747	1,894	2,026
157	7,900	943	1,357	1,588	1,755	1,903	2,036
158	7,950	947	1,363	1,596	1,763	1,912	2,046
159	8,000	952	1,370	1,603	1,772	1,921	2,055
160	8,050	956	1,376	1,611	1,780	1,930	2,065
161	8,100	961	1,383	1,619	1,789	1,939	2,075
162	8,150	966	1,389	1,626	1,797	1,948	2,084
163	8,200	970	1,396	1,634	1,805	1,957	2,094
164	8,250	975	1,402	1,641	1,814	1,966	2,104
165	8,300	979	1,409	1,649	1,822	1,975	2,114
166	8,350	984	1,415	1,656	1,830	1,984	2,123
167	8,400	988	1,422	1,664	1,839	1,993	2,133
168	8,450	992	1,428	1,671	1,846	2,002	2,142
169	8,500	996	1,433	1,678	1,854	2,010	2,151
170	8,550	1,000	1,439	1,685	1,862	2,018	2,160
171	8,600	1,004	1,445	1,692	1,869	2,027	2,168
172	8,650	1,008	1,451	1,699	1,877	2,035	2,177
173	8,700	1,012	1,457	1,706	1,885	2,043	2,186
174	8,750	1,016	1,463	1,713	1,893	2,052	2,195
175	8,800	1,020	1,469	1,720	1,900	2,060	2,204
176	8,850	1,024	1,475	1,727	1,908	2,069	2,213

177	8,900	1,028	1,480	1,734	1,916	2,077	2,222
178	8,950	1,032	1,486	1,741	1,923	2,085	2,231
179	9,000	1,036	1,492	1,748	1,931	2,094	2,240
180	9,050	1,040	1,498	1,755	1,939	2,102	2,249
181	9,100	1,044	1,504	1,762	1,946	2,110	2,258
182	9,150	1,048	1,510	1,769	1,954	2,119	2,267
183	9,200	1,053	1,516	1,776	1,962	2,127	2,276
184	9,250	1,057	1,522	1,783	1,970	2,135	2,285
185	9,300	1,061	1,528	1,790	1,977	2,144	2,294
186	9,350	1,065	1,533	1,797	1,985	2,152	2,302
187	9,400	1,069	1,539	1,804	1,993	2,160	2,311
188	9,450	1,073	1,545	1,811	2,000	2,169	2,320
189	9,500	1,077	1,551	1,817	2,008	2,177	2,329
190	9,550	1,081	1,557	1,824	2,016	2,185	2,338
191	9,600	1,085	1,563	1,831	2,023	2,194	2,347
192	9,650	1,089	1,569	1,838	2,031	2,202	2,356
193	9,700	1,093	1,575	1,845	2,039	2,210	2,365
194	9,750	1,097	1,581	1,853	2,047	2,219	2,375
195	9,800	1,101	1,586	1,859	2,054	2,227	2,383
196	9,850	1,104	1,591	1,865	2,061	2,234	2,391
197	9,900	1,108	1,596	1,872	2,068	2,242	2,399
198	9,950	1,111	1,601	1,878	2,075	2,249	2,407
199	10,000	1,115	1,607	1,884	2,082	2,257	2,415
200	10,050	1,118	1,612	1,890	2,089	2,264	2,423
201	10,100	1,122	1,617	1,897	2,096	2,272	2,431
202	10,150	1,126	1,622	1,903	2,103	2,279	2,439
203	10,200	1,129	1,627	1,909	2,110	2,287	2,447
204	10,250	1,133	1,632	1,915	2,116	2,294	2,455

205	10,300	1,136	1,638	1,922	2,123	2,302	2,463
206	10,350	1,140	1,643	1,928	2,130	2,309	2,471
207	10,400	1,143	1,648	1,934	2,137	2,316	2,478
208	10,450	1,146	1,652	1,939	2,143	2,323	2,486
209	10,500	1,149	1,657	1,945	2,149	2,330	2,493
210	10,550	1,153	1,662	1,951	2,156	2,337	2,500
211	10,600	1,156	1,667	1,957	2,162	2,344	2,508
212	10,650	1,159	1,672	1,962	2,168	2,351	2,515
213	10,700	1,162	1,676	1,968	2,175	2,357	2,522
214	10,750	1,166	1,681	1,974	2,181	2,364	2,530
215	10,800	1,169	1,686	1,980	2,188	2,371	2,537
216	10,850	1,172	1,691	1,985	2,194	2,378	2,545
217	10,900	1,175	1,695	1,991	2,200	2,385	2,552
218	10,950	1,178	1,700	1,997	2,207	2,392	2,559
219	11,000	1,182	1,705	2,003	2,213	2,399	2,567
220	11,050	1,185	1,710	2,008	2,219	2,406	2,574
221	11,100	1,188	1,714	2,014	2,226	2,412	2,581
222	11,150	1,191	1,719	2,020	2,232	2,419	2,589
223	11,200	1,195	1,724	2,026	2,238	2,426	2,596
224	11,250	1,198	1,729	2,032	2,245	2,434	2,604
225	11,300	1,202	1,736	2,039	2,254	2,443	2,614
226	11,350	1,206	1,742	2,047	2,262	2,452	2,624
227	11,400	1,210	1,748	2,055	2,270	2,461	2,633
228	11,450	1,214	1,754	2,062	2,279	2,470	2,643
229	11,500	1,219	1,760	2,070	2,287	2,479	2,653
230	11,550	1,223	1,767	2,077	2,295	2,488	2,662
231	11,600	1,227	1,773	2,085	2,304	2,497	2,672
232	11,650	1,231	1,779	2,092	2,312	2,506	2,682

233	11,700	1,235	1,785	2,100	2,320	2,516	2,691
234	11,750	1,239	1,791	2,107	2,329	2,525	2,701
235	11,800	1,243	1,798	2,115	2,337	2,534	2,711
236	11,850	1,248	1,804	2,123	2,345	2,543	2,720
237	11,900	1,252	1,810	2,130	2,354	2,552	2,730
238	11,950	1,256	1,816	2,138	2,362	2,561	2,740
239	12,000	1,260	1,822	2,145	2,370	2,570	2,750
240	12,050	1,264	1,829	2,153	2,379	2,579	2,759
241	12,100	1,268	1,835	2,160	2,387	2,588	2,769
242	12,150	1,272	1,841	2,168	2,395	2,597	2,779
243	12,200	1,277	1,847	2,175	2,404	2,606	2,788
244	12,250	1,281	1,853	2,183	2,412	2,615	2,798
245	12,300	1,285	1,860	2,191	2,421	2,624	2,808
246	12,350	1,289	1,866	2,198	2,429	2,633	2,817
247	12,400	1,293	1,872	2,206	2,437	2,642	2,827
248	12,450	1,297	1,878	2,213	2,446	2,651	2,837
249	12,500	1,301	1,884	2,221	2,454	2,660	2,846
250	12,550	1,306	1,891	2,228	2,462	2,669	2,856
251	12,600	1,310	1,897	2,236	2,471	2,678	2,866
252	12,650	1,314	1,903	2,243	2,479	2,687	2,875
253	12,700	1,318	1,909	2,251	2,487	2,697	2,885
254	12,750	1,322	1,916	2,258	2,495	2,705	2,894
255	12,800	1,325	1,920	2,263	2,501	2,711	2,901
256	12,850	1,328	1,924	2,268	2,507	2,717	2,907
257	12,900	1,331	1,928	2,273	2,512	2,723	2,913
258	12,950	1,334	1,933	2,278	2,518	2,729	2,920
259	13,000	1,337	1,937	2,283	2,523	2,735	2,926
260	13,050	1,340	1,941	2,288	2,529	2,741	2,933

261	13,100	1,343	1,945	2,293	2,534	2,747	2,939
262	13,150	1,346	1,950	2,298	2,540	2,753	2,945
263	13,200	1,349	1,954	2,303	2,545	2,759	2,952
264	13,250	1,352	1,958	2,308	2,551	2,765	2,958
265	13,300	1,355	1,963	2,313	2,556	2,771	2,964
266	13,350	1,358	1,967	2,318	2,562	2,777	2,971
267	13,400	1,361	1,971	2,323	2,567	2,783	2,977
268	13,450	1,364	1,975	2,328	2,573	2,789	2,984
269	13,500	1,367	1,980	2,333	2,578	2,794	2,990
270	13,550	1,370	1,984	2,338	2,584	2,800	2,996
271	13,600	1,373	1,988	2,343	2,589	2,806	3,003
272	13,650	1,376	1,993	2,348	2,595	2,812	3,009
273	13,700	1,379	1,997	2,353	2,600	2,818	3,016
274	13,750	1,382	2,001	2,358	2,606	2,824	3,022
275	13,800	1,385	2,005	2,363	2,611	2,830	3,028
276	13,850	1,388	2,010	2,368	2,617	2,836	3,035
277	13,900	1,391	2,014	2,373	2,622	2,842	3,041
278	13,950	1,394	2,018	2,378	2,628	2,848	3,048
279	14,000	1,397	2,023	2,383	2,633	2,854	3,054
280	14,050	1,400	2,027	2,388	2,639	2,860	3,060
281	14,100	1,403	2,031	2,393	2,644	2,866	3,067
282	14,150	1,406	2,035	2,398	2,650	2,872	3,073
283	14,200	1,409	2,040	2,403	2,655	2,878	3,080
284	14,250	1,412	2,044	2,408	2,661	2,884	3,086
285	14,300	1,415	2,048	2,413	2,666	2,890	3,092
286	14,350	1,418	2,052	2,418	2,672	2,896	3,099
287	14,400	1,421	2,057	2,423	2,677	2,902	3,105
288	14,450	1,424	2,061	2,428	2,683	2,908	3,112

289	14,500	1,427	2,065	2,433	2,689	2,914	3,118
290	14,550	1,430	2,070	2,438	2,694	2,920	3,124
291	14,600	1,433	2,074	2,443	2,700	2,926	3,131
292	14,650	1,436	2,078	2,448	2,705	2,932	3,137
293	14,700	1,439	2,082	2,453	2,711	2,938	3,144
294	14,750	1,442	2,087	2,458	2,716	2,944	3,150
295	14,800	1,445	2,091	2,463	2,722	2,950	3,156
296	14,850	1,448	2,095	2,468	2,727	2,956	3,163
297	14,900	1,451	2,100	2,473	2,733	2,962	3,169
298	14,950	1,454	2,104	2,478	2,738	2,968	3,176
299	15,000	1,457	2,108	2,483	2,744	2,974	3,182

300 (b) This subsection provides for incomes below table. If
301 combined adjusted gross income is below five hundred
302 fifty dollars per month, which is the lowest amount of
303 income considered in the table of monthly basic child
304 support obligations set forth in subsection (a) of this
305 section, the basic child support obligation shall be set at
306 fifty dollars per month or a discretionary amount deter-
307 mined by the court or master based on the resources and
308 living expenses of the parents and the number of children
309 due support.

310 (c) This subsection provides for incomes above table. If
311 combined adjusted gross income is above fifteen thousand
312 dollars per month, which is the highest amount of income
313 considered in the table of monthly basic child support
314 obligations set forth in subsection (a) of this section, the
315 basic child support obligation shall not be less than it
316 would be based on a combined adjusted gross income of
317 fifteen thousand dollars. The court or master may also
318 compute the basic child support obligation for combined
319 adjusted gross incomes above fifteen thousand dollars by
320 the following:

321 (1) One child — $\$1,457 + 0.088 \times$ combined adjusted
322 gross income above fifteen thousand dollars per month;

323 (2) Two children — \$2,108 + 0.129 x combined adjusted
 324 gross income above fifteen thousand dollars per month;

325 (3) Three children — \$2,483 + 0.153 x combined ad-
 326 justed gross income above fifteen thousand dollars per
 327 month;

328 (4) Four children — \$2,744 + 0.169 x combined adjusted
 329 gross income above fifteen thousand dollars per month;

330 (5) Five children — \$2,974 + 0.183 x combined adjusted
 331 gross income above fifteen thousand dollars per month;
 332 and

333 (6) Six children — \$3,182 + 0.196 x combined adjusted
 334 gross income above fifteen thousand dollars per month.

§48A-1B-5. Federal child care tax credit.

1 (a) The amount of the federal tax credit for child care
 2 expenses that can be realized by the custodial parent shall
 3 be approximated by deducting twenty-five percent from
 4 work-related child care costs, except that no such deduc-
 5 tion shall be made for custodial parents with monthly
 6 gross incomes below the following amounts:

7 (1) One child — \$1,150;

8 (2) Two children — \$1,550;

9 (3) Three children — \$1,750;

10 (4) Four children — \$1,950;

11 (5) Five children — \$2,150; and

12 (6) Six or more children — \$2,350.

13 (b) Work-related child care costs net of any adjustment
 14 for the child care tax credit shall be added to the basic
 15 child support obligation and shall be divided between the
 16 parents in proportion to their adjusted gross income.

§48A-1B-6. Computation of child support order in sole custody cases.

1 (a) For sole custody cases, the total child support
 2 obligation consists of the basic child support obligation

3 plus the child's share of any unreimbursed health care
 4 expenses, work-related child care expenses and any other
 5 extraordinary expenses agreed to by the parents or
 6 ordered by the court or master less any extraordinary
 7 credits agreed to by the parents or ordered by the court or
 8 master.

9 (b) In a sole custody case, the total basic child support
 10 obligation is divided between the parents in proportion to
 11 their income. From this amount is subtracted the obligor's
 12 direct expenditures of any items which were added to the
 13 basic child support obligation to arrive at the total child
 14 support obligation.

15 (c) Child support for sole custody cases shall be calcu-
 16 lated using the following worksheet:

WORKSHEET A: SOLE PHYSICAL CUSTODY

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF _____ COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA CASE NO. _____
 Mother: _____ SS No.: _____ Custodial parent? Yes No
 Father: _____ SS No.: _____ Custodial parent? Yes No

Children	SSN	Date of Birth	Children	SSN	Date of Birth
PART I. CHILD SUPPORT ORDER			Mother	Father	Combined
1. MONTHLY GROSS INCOME			\$	\$	
a. Minus preexisting child support pay- ment			-	-	
b. Minus maintenance paid			-	-	
2. MONTHLY ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME			\$	\$	\$
3. PERCENTAGE SHARE OF INCOME (Each parent's income from line 2 divided by Com- bined Income)			%	%	100%
4. BASIC OBLIGATION (Use Line 2 com- bined to find amount from schedule.)					\$

5. ADJUSTMENTS (Expenses paid directly by each parent)			
a. Work-Related Child Care Costs Adjusted for Federal Tax Credit (0.75 x actual work-related child care costs.)	\$	\$	
b. Extraordinary Medical Expenses (Uninsured only) and Children's Portion of Health Insurance Premium Costs.	\$	\$	
c. Extraordinary Expenses (Agreed to by parents or by order of the court or master.)	\$	\$	
d. Minus Extraordinary Adjustments (Agreed to by parents or by order of court or master.)			
e. Total Adjustments (For each column, add 5a, 5b, and 5c. Subtract Line 5d. Add the parent's totals together for Combined amount.)	\$	\$	\$
6. TOTAL SUPPORT OBLIGATION (Add line 4 and line 5e Combined.)			\$
7. EACH PARENT'S SHARE OF THE TOTAL CHILD SUPPORT OBLIGATION (Line 3 x line 6 for each parent.)	\$	\$	
8. NONCUSTODIAL PARENT ADJUSTMENT (Enter noncustodial parent's line 5e.)	\$	\$	
9. RECOMMENDED CHILD SUPPORT ORDER (Subtract line 8 from line 7 for the noncustodial parent only. Leave custodial parent column blank.)	\$	\$	
PART II. ABILITY TO PAY CALCULATION (Complete if the noncustodial parent's adjusted monthly gross income is below \$1,400.)			
10. Spendable Income (0.85 x line 2 for noncustodial parent only.)			
11. Self Support Reserve	\$500	\$500	
12. Income Available for Support (Line 10 - line 11. If less than \$50, then \$50)			
13. Adjusted Child Support Order (Lessor of Line 9 and Line 12.)			

Comments, calculations, or rebuttals to schedule or adjustments if noncustodial parent directly pays extraordinary expenses.	
PREPARED BY:	Date:

1 (d) In cases where the noncustodial parent's adjusted
2 gross income is below one thousand four hundred dollars
3 per month, an additional calculation in Worksheet A, Part
4 II shall be made. This additional calculation sets the child
5 support order at whichever is lower: (i) Child support at
6 the amount determined in Part I; or (ii) the difference
7 between eighty-five percent of the noncustodial parent's
8 adjusted gross income and five hundred dollars, or fifty
9 dollars, whichever is more.

§48A-1B-7. Shared physical custody adjustment.

1 (a) Child support for cases with shared physical custody
2 shall be calculated using Worksheet B. The following
3 method should be used only for shared physical custody as
4 defined in section twenty-six, article one-a of this chapter:
5 That is, cases where each parent has the child for more
6 than one hundred twenty-seven days per year (thirty-five
7 percent).

8 (b) The basic child support obligation shall be multiplied
9 by 1.5 to arrive at a shared custody basic child support
10 obligation. The shared custody basic child support
11 obligation is apportioned to each parent according to his
12 or her income. In turn, a child support obligation is
13 computed for each parent by multiplying that parent's
14 portion of the shared custody child support obligation by
15 the percentage of time the child spends with the other
16 parent. The respective basic child support obligations are
17 then offset, with the parent owing more basic child
18 support paying the difference between the two amounts.
19 The transfer for the basic obligation for the parent owing
20 less basic child support shall be set at zero dollars.

21 (c) Adjustments for each parent's additional direct

22 expenses on the child are made by apportioning the sum
 23 of the parent's direct expenditures on the child's share of
 24 any unreimbursed child health care expenses, work-
 25 related child care expenses and any other extraordinary
 26 expenses agreed to by the parents or ordered by the court
 27 or master less any extraordinary credits agreed to by the
 28 parents or ordered by the court or master to each parent
 29 according to their income share. In turn each parent's net
 30 share of additional direct expenses is determined by
 31 subtracting the parent's actual direct expenses on the
 32 child's share of any unreimbursed child health care
 33 expenses, work-related child care expenses and any other
 34 extraordinary expenses agreed to by the parents or by the
 35 court or master less any extraordinary credits agreed to by
 36 the parents or ordered by the court or master from their
 37 share. The parent with a positive net share of additional
 38 direct expenses owes the other parent the amount of his or
 39 her net share of additional direct expenses. The parent
 40 with zero or a negative net share of additional direct
 41 expenses owes zero dollars for additional direct expenses.

42 (d) The final amount of the child support order is
 43 determined by summing what each parent owes for the
 44 basic support obligation and additional direct expenses as
 45 defined in subsections (b) and (c) of this section. The
 46 respective sums are then offset, with the parent owing
 47 more paying the other parent the difference between the
 48 two amounts.

49 (e) Child support for shared physical custody cases shall
 50 be calculated using the following worksheet:

WORKSHEET B: SHARED PHYSICAL CUSTODY

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF _____ COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA CASE NO. _____
 Mother: _____ SS No.: _____ Custodial parent? Yes No
 Father: _____ SS No.: _____ Custodial parent? Yes No

Children	SSN	Date of Birth	Children	SSN	Date of Birth
PART I. BASIC OBLIGATION			Mother	Father	Combined
1. MONTHLY GROSS INCOME			\$	\$	

a. Minus preexisting child support payment	-	-	
b. Minus maintenance paid	-	-	
2. MONTHLY ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME	\$	\$	\$
3. PERCENTAGE SHARE OF INCOME (Each parent's income from line 2 divided by Combined Income)	%	%	100%
4. BASIC OBLIGATION (Use line 2 Combined to find amount from Child Support Schedule.)			\$
PART II. SHARED CUSTODY ADJUSTMENT			
5. Shared Custody Basic Obligation (line 4 x 1.50)			\$
6. Each Parent's Share (Line 5 x each parent's line 3)	\$	\$	
7. Overnights with Each Parent (must total 365)			365
8. Percentage with Each Parent (Line 7 divided by 365)	%	%	100%
9. Amount Retained (Line 6 x line 8 for each parent)	\$	\$	
10. Each Parent's Obligation (Line 6 - line 9)	\$	\$	
11. AMOUNT TRANSFERRED FOR BASIC OBLIGATION (Subtract smaller amount on line 10 from larger amount on line 10. Parent with larger amount on line 10 owes the other parent the difference. Enter \$0 for other parent.)	\$	\$	
PART III. ADJUSTMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL EXPENSES (Expenses paid directly by each parent.)			
12a. Work-Related Child Care Costs Adjusted for Federal Tax Credit (0.75 x actual work-related child care costs.)	\$	\$	

12b. Extraordinary Medical Expenses (Uninsured only) and Children's Portion of Health Insurance Premium Costs.	\$	\$	
12c. Extraordinary Additional Expenses (Agreed to by parents or by order of the court or master.)	\$	\$	
12d. Minus Extraordinary Adjustments (Agreed to by parents or by order of the court or master.)	\$	\$	
12e. Total Adjustments (For each column, add 11a, 11b, and 11c. Subtract line 11d. Add the parent's totals together for Combined amount.)	\$	\$	\$
13. Each Parent's Share of Additional Expenses (Line 3 x line 12e Combined.)	\$	\$	
14. Each parent's Net Share of Additional direct expenses (Each parent's line 13-line 12e. If negative number, enter \$0)	\$	\$	
15. AMOUNT TRANSFERRED FOR ADDITIONAL EXPENSES (Subtract smaller amount on line 14 from larger amount on line 14. Parent with larger amount on line 14 owes the other parent the difference. Enter \$0 for other parent.	\$	\$	
PART IV. RECOMMENDED CHILD SUPPORT ORDER			
16. TOTAL AMOUNT TRANSFERRED (Line 11 + line 15)	\$	\$	
17. RECOMMENDED CHILD SUPPORT ORDER (Subtract smaller amount on line 16 from larger amount on line 16. Parent with larger amount on line 16 owes the other parent the difference.	\$	\$	

Comments, calculations, or rebuttals to schedule or adjustments	
PREPARED BY:	Date:

§48A-1B-9. Adjustment for obligor's social security benefits sent directly to the child.

1 If a proportion of the obligor's social security benefit is
2 paid directly to the custodian of his or her dependents who
3 are the subject of the child support order, the following
4 adjustment shall be made. The total amount of the social
5 security benefit which includes the amounts paid to the
6 obligor and the obligee shall be counted as gross income to
7 the obligor. In turn, the child support order will be
8 calculated as described in section six of this article. To
9 arrive at the final child support amount, however, the
10 amount of the social security benefits sent directly to the
11 child's household will be subtracted from the child
12 support order. If the child support order amount results
13 in a negative amount it shall be set at zero.

§48A-1B-11. Modification.

1 The provisions of a child support order may be modified
2 if there is a substantial change of circumstances. If
3 application of the guideline would result in a new order
4 that is more than fifteen percent different, then the
5 circumstances are considered to be a substantial change.

§48A-1B-12. Tax exemption for child due support.

1 Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, the court shall
2 allocate the right to claim dependent children for income
3 tax purposes to the custodial parent except in cases of
4 shared custody. In shared custody cases, these rights shall
5 be allocated between the parties in proportion to their
6 adjusted gross incomes for child support calculations. In
7 a situation where allocation would be of no tax benefit to

8 a party, the court or master need make no allocation to
9 that party. However, the tax exemptions for the minor
10 child or children should be granted to the noncustodial
11 parent only if the total of the custodial parent's income
12 and child support is greater when the exemption is
13 awarded to the noncustodial parent.

§48A-1B-16. Investment of child support.

1 A circuit judge has the discretion, in appropriate cases,
2 to direct that a portion of child support be placed in trust
3 and invested for future educational or other needs of the
4 child. The family law master may recommend and the
5 circuit judge may order such investment when all of the
6 child's day-to-day needs are being met such that, with due
7 consideration of the age of the child, the child is living as
8 well as his or her parents. A trustee named by the court
9 shall use the judgment and care under the circumstances
10 then prevailing that persons of prudence, discretion and
11 intelligence exercise in the management of their own
12 affairs, not in regard to speculation but in regard to the
13 permanent disposition of their funds, considering the
14 probable income as well as the probable safety of their
15 capital. A trustee shall be governed by the provisions of
16 the uniform prudent investor act as set forth in article six-
17 c, chapter forty-four of this code. The court may prescribe
18 the powers of the trustee and provide for the management
19 and control of the trust. Upon petition of a party or the
20 child's guardian or next friend and upon a showing of
21 good cause, the court may order the release of funds in the
22 trust from time to time.

That Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

[Handwritten Signature]
.....
Chairman Senate Committee

[Handwritten Signature]
.....
Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect ninety days from passage.

[Handwritten Signature]
.....
Clerk of the Senate

[Handwritten Signature]
.....
Clerk of the House of Delegates

[Handwritten Signature]
.....
President of the Senate

[Handwritten Signature]
.....
Speaker House of Delegates

The within *is approved* this the *7th*
day of *March*, 1997.

[Handwritten Signature]
.....
Governor

PRESENTED TO THE
GOVERNOR

Date 4/28/97

Time 2:26 pm