

HB 227 -- Child Support

Sponsor: Wyatt

This bill specifies that the child support guidelines established by the Missouri Supreme Court must require documentation to verify the income of the parties for an initial order of child support and for any modification of the order. The documentation may include current wage stubs, a current W-2 form, statements from a party's employer, a wage match with the Division of Employment Security within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, and bank statements.

No child support can be awarded in instances where 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, the difference in the verified incomes of the parents is less than 25%, and a finding has been made that joint custody and award of no child support is in the best interest of the child.

When parents do not agree on an award of no child support but meet all of the other above requirements, the court must award child support in an amount that provides up to a 50% adjustment below the basic child support amount authorized by the child support guidelines. The Missouri Supreme Court must amend the guidelines, commonly referred to as "Form 14", to reflect this ability to obtain up to a 50% adjustment for joint custody under the above conditions.