1999 DRAFTING REQUEST

Assembly Substitute Amendment (ASA-AB740)

Received	:03/07/2000				Received By: kah	lepj	
Wanted: Soon			Identical to LRB:				
For: Sheryl Albers (608) 266-8531			By/Representing: Scott Southworth				
This file may be shown to any legislator: NO				Drafter: kahlepj			
May Contact:				Alt. Drafters:			
Subject:	,	el divorce el miscellane	ous		Extra Copies:		
Pre Topio	c:						
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Topic:							
Revision	of maintenanc	e on basis of de	bt discharge	in bankrupt	су		
Instruction	ons:						
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Drafting	History:						
Vers.	<u>Drafted</u>	Reviewed	<u>Typed</u>	<u>Proofed</u>	Submitted	<u>Jacketed</u>	Required
/?	kahlepj 03/08/2000	jgeller 03/08/2000					
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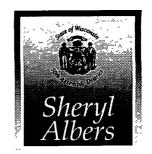
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Instruction	ons:	
See Attac	hed	
Drafting	History:	
<u>Vers.</u> /?	Drafted Reviewed Typed Proofed kahlepj	Submitted Jacketed Required

<**END**>



To: Attorney Pamela Kahler, LRB

From: Attorney Scott Harold Southworth, Research Assistant

Date: March 6, 2000

Subject: 1999 Assembly Bill 740 - Divorce Maintenance

Reference: Attached information from the Wisconsin State Bar Association

The Wisconsin State Bar Association requested two changes to AB 740. One is a renumbering issue; the other is a language clarification. We agree with the bar's recommendations, and would like an amendment for the committee to take up and pass when they exec on the bill on March 14. As I realize LRB is quite busy right now, I drafted the simple amendment for you. After I drafted the amendment, however, I realized that so many small changes were made due to the renumbering issue that a substitute amendment would be more appropriate to avoid confusion.

Note that I created 767.257, which is chronologically after the award of maintenance payments in 767.26 - unfortunately, .261, .262, etc. are all used after 767.26, so I had to go before .26 instead of after. Though I don't like this statutory construction, it appears to be the only way to keep the two issues together in the statutes and still leave 767.26 alone completely.

Given the number of changes, I may have missed something. Feel free to make any changes you deem appropriate to accomplish our goal. Thanks for your help, and best wishes, Pam.

At the locations indicated, amend the bill as follows:

- **1.** Page 1, line 1: delete "to renumber 767.26;".
- 2. Page 1, line 2: delete "767.26 (2)" and substitute "767.257".
- 3. Page 2, line 1: delete lines 1 through 4.
- 4. Page 2, line 5: delete "2." and substitute "1.".
- **5.** Page 2, line 6: delete "767.25 or" and substitute "767.25, 767.257 or"
- **6.** Page 2, line 7: delete "(1)".
- **7.** Page 3, line 3: delete "3." and substitute "2."
- 8. Page 3, line 8: after "under" insert "s.767.257,".
- **9.** Page 3, line 10: delete "4." and substitute "3."
- 10. Page 3, line 21: delete "767.26 (1)" and substitute "767.26".

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February 23, 2000

FAMILY LAW SECTION.

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MADISON, WI 53718-2101

(608) 257-3838 FAX (608) 257-5502 State Representative Sheryl Albers State Capitol P.O. Box 8952 Madison, Wisconsin 53708

Dear Representative Albers:

The Family Law Section supports Assembly Bill 740 and appreciates your continued efforts to protect a party from being forced to pay their ex-spouses debts.

Under current law, good lawyers often "hold open" maintenance as security in the event the other spouse discharges in bankruptcy a marital debt they were required to pay. The legislation gives that benefit to everyone, irrespective of whether they are represented by an attorney.

In fact, Assembly Bill 740 will be especially beneficial for those individuals who cannot afford or choose not to be represented by an attorney.

The Family Law Section recommends two minor technical amendments to the bill:

First, the renumbering of 767.26 is problematic. Current section 767.26, which was enacted in 1979, enumerates in subsections (1) through (10) the factors courts must consider in deciding maintenance. There is substantial case law interpreting those ten subsections since its enactment 21 years ago. A renumbering of those ten subsections will complicate future research and access to that body of case law.

Enclosed you find a page from the 1985 Shenard's Wisconsin Citations to give you an idea of the number of citations impacted. The Section recommends that the Legislative Reference Bureau find a different way to draft the substantive provisions without renumbering the existing maintenance factors.

Second, the legislation needs clarification that a party can seek maintenance if they have been held "liable" to satisfy a marital debt that the other spouse discharged in bankruptcy. In many cases, a creditor of a marital debt will simply forgive the indebtedness upon a discharge in bankruptcy rather than pursue the former spouse. If the former spouse has not been held liable to pay a debt that was not their responsibility, they should not have the right to obtain maintenance to pay the debt. That strikes a better balance between the interest of the former spouse to be protected in the event of bankruptcy, while preserving the constitutional and statutory right of the other spouse to discharge debts in bankruptcy. Enclosed you will find suggested revisions for your consideration.

Again, thank you for your efforts in moving Assembly Bill 740. Please let me know if the Family Law Section can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Public Affairs Director

250-6140 Iborth@wisbor.org

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39Wis2d31

140Wis2d155

388NW913

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Subsec. 9

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The amount so ordered to be paid may be changed or modified by the court upon notice of motion or order to show cause by either party upon sufficient evidence.

SECTION 3. 767.10 (2) (c) of the statutes is created to read:

767.10 (2) (c) A court may not approve a stipulation that waives maintenance payments for either party unless the stipulation contains a statement by the party waiving maintenance that he or she understands that, if the court approves the waiver of maintenance payments, the court will not award maintenance payments to the party under s. 767.26 or revise or alter a judgment or order with respect to maintenance payments to the party under s. 767.32.

SECTION 4. 767.10 (2) (d) of the statutes is created to read:

767.10 (2) (d) A court shall approve a stipulation that conditionally waives maintenance payments for either party if all of the following apply:

- 1. The court assigns to the other party under s. 767.255 responsibility for the repayment of any debt for which the party conditionally waiving maintenance has liability or property that is available under s. 766.55 to satisfy the debt.
- 2. The waiver of maintenance is based on the condition that the party assigned a debt specified in subd. 1. does not secure a discharge in bankruptcy of the debt.
- 3. The stipulation contains a statement by the party conditionally waiving maintenance that he or she understands that, if the court approves the conditional waiver of maintenance payments, the court will not award maintenance payments to the party under s. 767.26 (l), the court will not award maintenance payments to the party under s. 767.26 (2) unless the other party secures a discharge in for which he party of a debt specified in subd. 1., and the court will not revise or alter a judgment or order with respect to maintenance payments to the party under s.

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1	767.32 unless the court awards maintenance payments to the party under s. 767.26
2	(2).
3	SECTION 5. 767.255 (3) (i) of the statutes is amended to read:
4	767.255 (3) (i) The amount and duration of an order under s. $767.26 (1)$ granting
5	maintenance payments to either party, any order for periodic family support
6	payments under s. 767.261 and whether the property division is in lieu of such
7	payments.
8	payments. SECTION 6. 767.26 of the statutes is renumbered 767.26 (1). SECTION 7. 767.26 (2) of the statutes is created to read: 767.26 (2) Afterjudgment has been granted in an action for annulment, divorce
9	SECTION 7. 767.26 (2) of the statutes is created to read:
10	767.26 (2) Afterjudgment has been granted in an action for annulment, divorce
11	or legal separation, the court may award maintenance payments to a party, upon the
12	petition, motion or order to show cause of the party, if all of the following apply:
13	(a) The party seeking maintenance under this subsection conditionally waived
14	maintenance under s. 767.10 (2) (d).
15	(b) The party seeking maintenance under this subsection has not remarried.
16	(c) The party from whom maintenance is sought under this subsection has
17	secured a discharge in bankruptcy of a debt that was assigned to that party in a
18	property division under s. 767.255 and for which the party seeking maintenance has been held liable to
19	liability or property that is available under s. 766.55 to satisfy the debt.
80	SECTION 8. 767.32 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:
21	767.32 (1) (a) After a judgment or order providing for child support under this
22	chapter or s. 48.355 (2) (b) 4., 48.357 (5m), 48.363 (2), 938.183 (4), 938.355 (2) (b) 4.,
23	938.357 (5m), 938.363 (2) or 948.22 (7), maintenance payments under s. 767.26 or
24	family support payments under this chapter, or for the appointment of trustees

under s. 767.31, the court may, from time to time, on the petition, motion or order to

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of a debt that was assigned to a party under s. 767.255, and for which the other party been held lable
has liability or property that is available under s. 766.55 to satisfy the debt, is
sufficient to justify a revision of the judgment or order with respect to the amount
of maintenance payments that are received or paid by the party to whom the debt was
assigned.
SECTION 10. Initial applicability.
(1) The treatment of sections 767.10 (2) (c) and (d) and 767.26 (2) of the statutes
first applies to stipulations that are approved by a court on the effective date of this
subsection.
(2) The treatment of section section 767.32 (1) (ar) of the statutes first applies
to debts that are discharged in bankruptcy on the effective date of this subsection.
SECTION 11. Effective date.
(1) This act takes effect on the first day of the 6th month beginning after
publication.

(END)



State of Misconsin 1999 - 2000 LEGISLATURE

LRBs0382/

PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT,

TO 1999 ASSEMBLY BILL 740

L'in Dearc

AN ACT ...

AN ACT A; relating to: awarding or revising maintenance payments on the basis of debt discharge in bankruptcy and approving stipulations waiving maintenance.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:



Quest 3-2

The amount so ordered to be paid may be changed or modified by the court upon notice of motion or order to show cause by either party upon sufficient evidence.

SECTION 3. 767.10 (2) (c) of the statutes is created to read:

767.10 (2) (c) A court may not approve a stipulation that waives maintenance payments for either party unless the stipulation contains a statement by the party waiving maintenance that he or she understands that, if the court approves the waiver of maintenance payments, the court will not award maintenance payments to the party under s. 767.26 or revise or alter a judgment or order with respect to maintenance payments to the party under s. 767.32.

SECTION 4. 767.10 (2) (d) of the statutes is created to read:

767.10 (2) (d) A court shall approve a stipulation that conditionally waives maintenance payments for either party if all of the following apply:

- 1. The court assigns to the other party under s. 767.255 responsibility for the repayment of any debt for which the party conditionally waiving maintenance has liability or property that is available under s. 766.55 to satisfy the debt.
- 2. The waiver of maintenance is based on the condition that the party assigned a debt specified in subd. 1. does not secure a discharge in bankruptcy of the debt.
- 3. The stipulation contains a statement by the party conditionally waiving maintenance that he or she understands that, if the court approves the conditional waiver of maintenance payments, the court will not award maintenance payments to the party under s. 767.26 the court will not award maintenance payments to the party under s. 167.2605 unless the other party secures a discharge in bankruptcy of a debt specified in subd. 1., and the court will not revise or alter a judgment or order with respect to maintenance payments to the party under s.

with respect to maintenance payments to the party under s.

> for which the party conditionally wairing

& maintence unix on beld liable

been heed liable

767.32 unless the court awards maintenance payments to the party under s.

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SECTION 5 767255 (3) (i) of the statutes is amended to read:

767.255 (3) (i) The amount and duration of an order under s. 767.26 (1) granting

maintenance payments to either party, any order for periodic family support

payments under s. 767.261 and whether the property division is in heu of such

7 / payments

Section 6×76726 of the statutes is remaindered 76726 (1)

SECTION 7. Which of the statutes is created to read:

or legal separation, the court may award maintenance payments to a party, upon the

petition, motion or order to show cause of the party, if all of the following apply:

The party seeking maintenance under this section conditionally waived

14 maintenance under s. 767.10 (2) (d).

The party seeking maintenance under this **section** has not remarried.

The party from whom maintenance is sought under this description has secured a discharge in bankruptcy of a debt that was assigned to that party in a property division under s. 767.255 and for which the party seeking maintenance has

Mability or property that is available unders 766.55 to satisfy the ideby

Section 8. 767.32 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

767.32 **(1)** (a) After a judgment or order providing for child support under this chapter or s. 48.355 (2) (b) 4., 48.357 (5m), 48.363 (2), 938.183 (4), 938.355 (2) (b) 4., 938.357 (5m), 938.363 (2) or 948.22 (7), maintenance payments under s. 767.26 or family support payments under this chapter, or for the appointment of trustees under s. 767.31, the court may, from time to time, on the petition, motion or order to

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show cause of either of the parties, or upon the petition, motion or order to show cause of the department, a county department under s. 46.215, 46.22 or 46.23 or a county child support agency under s. 59.53 (5) if an assignment has been made under s. **46.261**, **48.57** (3m) (b) 2. or (3n) (b) **2.**, **49.19** (4) (h) or **49.45** (19) or if either party or their minor children receive aid under s. 48.57 (3m) or (3n) or ch. 49, and upon notice to the family court commissioner, revise and alter such judgment or order respecting the amount of such maintenance or child support and the payment thereof, and also respecting the appropriation and payment of the principal and income of the property so held in trust, and may make any judgment or order respecting any of the matters that such court might have made in the original action, except that a judgment or order that waives maintenance payments for either party shall not thereafter be revised or altered under this section in that respect nor shall the provisions of a judgment or order with respect to final division of property be subject to revision or modification. A revision, under this section, of a judgment or order with respect to an amount of child or family support may be made only upon a finding of a substantial change in circumstances.

In am Subject to par. (a), in any action under this section to revise a judgment or order with respect to maintenance payments, a substantial change in the cost of living by either party or as measured by the federal bureau of labor statistics may be sufficient to justify a revision of judgment or order with respect to the amount of maintenance, except that a change in an obligor's cost of living is not in itself sufficient if payments are expressed as a percentage of income.

SECTION 9. 767.32 (1) (ar) of the statutes is created to read:

767.32 (1) (ar) Subject to par. (a), in any action under this section to revise a judgment or order with respect to maintenance payments, a discharge in bankruptcy

1 of a debt that was assigned to a party under s. 767.255, and for which the other party has Walling the distribute and all 1865 to gatisty the deby, is sufficient to justify a revision of the judgment or order with respect to the amount 3 of maintenance payments that are received or paid by the party to whom the debt was assigned. **SECTION 10. Initial applicability.** (1) The treatment of sections 767.10 (2) (c) and (d) and the least of the statutes 8 first applies to stipulations that are approved by a court on the effective date of this 9 subsection. 10 (2) The treatment of section section 767.32 (1) (ar) of the statutes first applies to debts that are discharged in bankruptcy on the effective date of this subsection. 11

SECTION 11. Effective date.

(1) This act takes effect on the first day of the 6th month beginning after publication.

15 **(END)**

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PJK...:...:...

1999-2000 **DRAFTING INSERT**FROM THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BTJREAU

INSERT 3-2

SECTION 1. 565.30 (5m) (a) of the statutes, as affected by 1999 Wisconsin Act 9, section 3025pa, is amended to read:

development the name, address and social security number of each winner of a lottery prize that is payable in instalments and the name, address and social security number or federal income tax number of the person who has been assigned a lottery prize that is payable in instalments. Upon receipt of the report, the department of workforce development shall certify to the administrator whether any payee or assignee named in the report is obligated to provide child support, spousal support, maintenance or family support under s. 767.02 (1) (f) or (g), 767.10, 767.23, 767.25, 767.26, 767.2605, 767.261, 767.458 (3), 767.465 (2m), 767.477, 767.51 (3), 767.62 (4) or 948.22 (7) or ch. 769 and the amount required to be withheld from the lottery prize under s. 767.265. Subject to par. (b), the administrator shall withhold the certified amount from each payment made to the winner or assignee and remit the certified amount to the department of workforce development.

NOTE: NOTE: Par. (a) is shown as amended eff. 5-1-00 by 1999 Wis. Act 9. Prior to 5-1-00 it reads: NOTE:

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(a) The administrator shall report to the department of workforce development the name, address and social security number of each winner of a lottery prize that is payable in instalments and the name, address and social security number or federal income tax number of the person who has been assigned a lottery prize that is payable in instalments. Upon receipt of the report, the department of workforce development shall certify to the administrator whether any payee or assignee named in the report is obligated to provide child support, spousal support, maintenance or family support under s. 767.02 (1) (f) or (g), 767.10, 767.23, 767.25, 767.26, 767.261, 767.458 (3), 767.465 (2m), 767.477, 767.51 (3), 767.62 (4) (a) or 948.22 (7) or ch. 769 and the amount required to be withheld from the lottery prize under s. 767.265. Subject to par. (b), the administrator shall withhold the certified amount from each payment made to the winner or assignee and remit the certified amount to the department of workforce development.

History: 1987 a. 119, 399; 1989 a. 31; 1989 a. 56s. 259; 1989 a. 359; 1991 a. 269; 1993 a. 16,481; 1995 a. 27 ss. 6981j, 6981k, 9126 (19); 1995 a. 225, 404; 1997 a. 3, 27, 35; 1997 a. 148 ss. 3 to 5; 1997 a. 191; 1999 a. 9.

(END OF INSERT 3-2)

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767.2605 Awarding maintenance after final judgment.



(END OF INSERT 4-10)

INSERT 4-19

SECTION 2. 767.261 (intro.) of the statutes, as affected by 1999 Wisconsin Act 9, is amended to read:

767.261 Family support. (intro.) The court may make a financial order designated "family support" as a substitute for child support orders under s. 767.25 and maintenance payment orders under s. 767.26 or 767.2605. A party ordered to pay family support under this section shall pay simple interest at the rate of 1% per month on any amount in arrears that is equal to or greater than the amount of child support due in one month. If the party no longer has a current obligation to pay child support, interest at the rate of 1% per month shall accrue on the total amount of child support in arrears, if any. Interest under this section is in lieu of interest computed under s. 807.01 (4), 814.04 (4) or 815.05 (8) and is paid to the department or its designee under s. 767.29. Except as provided in s. 767.29 (1m), the department or its designee, whichever is appropriate, shall apply all payments received for family support as follows:

NOTE: NOTE: Section 767.261 (intro.) Is shown as amended eff. S-I-00 by 1999 Wis. Act 9. Prior to S-I-00 it reads: NOTE:

767.261 Family support. The court may make a financial order designated "family support" as a substitute for child support orders under s. 767.25 and maintenance payment orders under s. 767.26. A party ordered to pay Family support under this section shall pay simple interest at the rate of 1.5% per month on any—amount in arrears that is equal to or greater than the amount of child support due in one month. If the party no longer has a current obligation to pay child support, interest at the rate of 1.5% per month shall accrue on the total amount of child support in arrears, if any. Interest under this section is in lieu of interest computed under s. 807.01 (4), 814.04 (4) or 815.05 (8) and is paid to the department or its designee under s. 767.29. Except as provided ins. 767.29 (lm), the department or its designee, whichever is appropriate, shall apply all payments received for family support as follows:

History: 1977 c. 105; 1979 c. 32.ss. 50, 92 (4); Stats-1979 s. 767-261; 1983 a. 27; 1985 a. 29; 1993 a. 481; 1995 a. 279; 1997 a. 27, 191; 1999 a. 9; s. 13.93 (2) (c) - SECTION 3. 767.265 (1) of the statutes, as affected by 1999 Wisconsin Act 9,

section 3055c, is amended to read:

767.265 **(1)** Each order for child support under this chapter, for maintenance payments under s. 767.23 or 767.26 or 767.2605, for family support under this chapter, for costs ordered under s. 767.51 (3) or 767.62 **(4)**, for support by a spouse

under s. 767.02 (1) (f), for maintenance payments under s. 767.02 (1) (g) or for the annual receiving and disbursing fee under s. 767.29 (1) (d), each order for a revision in a judgment or order with respect to child support, maintenance or family support payments under s. 767.32, each stipulation approved by the court or the family court commissioner for child support under this chapter and each order for child or spousal support entered under s. 948.22 (7) constitutes an assignment of all commissions, earnings, salaries, wages, pension benefits, benefits under ch. 102 or 108, lottery prizes that are payable in instalments and other money due or to be due in the future to the department or its designee. The assignment shall be for an amount sufficient to ensure payment under the order or stipulation and to pay any arrearages due at a periodic rate not to exceed 50% of the amount of support due under the order or stipulation so long as the addition of the amount toward arrearages does not leave the party at an income below the poverty line established under 42 USC 9902 (2).

NOTE: NOTE: Sub. (1) is shown as amended eff. 5-1-00 by 1999 Wis. Act 9. Prior to S-l-00 it reads: NOTE:

(1) Each order for child support under this chapter, for maintenance payments under s. 767.23 or 767.26, for family support under this chapter, for costs ordered under s. 767.51 (3) or 767.62 (4) (a), for support by a spouse under s. 767.02 (1) (f), for maintenance payments under s. 767.02 (1) (g) or for the annual receiving and disbursing fee under s. 767.29 (1) (d), each order for a revision in a judgment or order with respect to child support, maintenance or family support payments under s. 767.32, each stipulation approved by the court or the family court commissioner for child support under this chapter and each order for child or spousal support entered under s. 948.22 (7) constitutes an assignment of all commissions, earnings, salaries, wages, pension benefits under ch. 102 or 108, lottery prizes that are payable in instalments and other money due or to be due in the future to the department or its designee. The assignment shall be for an amount sufficient to ensure payment under the order or stipulation and to pay any arrearages due at a periodic rate not to exceed 50% of the amount of support due under the order or stipulation so long as the addition of the amount toward arrearages does not leave the party at an income below the poverty line established under 42 USC 9902 (2).

History: 1971 c. 110; 1975 c. 94 s. 91 (3); 1975 c. 199; 1977 c. 105; 1979 c. 32 ss. 50, 92 (4); 1979 c. 196, 221; Stats. 1979 s. 767.265; 1981 c. 20, 186; 1983 a. 27, 384; 1985 a. 29; 1987 a. 38 s. 136; 1987 a. 332 s. 64; 1987 a. 398, 403; 1989 a. 31, 56, 212, 336; 1991 a. 287; 1993 a. 16, 326, 389, 481; 1995 a. 27 s. 9130 (4); 1995 a. 279, 404; 1997 a. 27, 191; 1999 a. 9.

SECTION 4. 767.30 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

767.30 (1) If the court orders any payment for support under s. 48.355 (2) (b) 4., 48.357 (5m), 48.363 (2), 938.183 (4), 938.355 (2) (b) 4., 938.357 (5m) or 938.363 (2), support or maintenance under s. 767.08, child support, family support or maintenance under s. 767.23, child support under s. 767.25, maintenance under s. 767.26 or 767.2605, family support under s. 767.261, attorney fees under s. 767.262, child support or a child's health care expenses under s. 767.477, paternity obligations under s. 767.458 (3), 767.51 or 767.62 (4), support arrearages under s. 767.293 or

child or spousal support under s. 948.22 (7), the court may provide that any payment

be paid in the amounts and at the times that it considers expedient.

History: 1941 c. 220; 1973 c. 401 c. 47.1977 c. 705; 1979 c. 32 ss. 50.92 (4); 1979 c. 196, 221; 1979 c. 257 s. 17; 1979 c. 355; stats. 1979 s. 767.30; 1983 a. 27, 1985 a.

SECTION 5. 767.305 of the statutes is amended to read:

has incurred a financial obligation under s. 48.355 (2) (b) 4., 48.357 (5m), 48.363 (2), 767.23, 767.25, 767.255, 767.26, 767.2605. 767.261, 767.262, 767.293, 767.458 (3), 767.477, 767.51, 767.62 (4), 938.183 (4), 938.355 (2) (b) 4., 938.357 (5m) or 938.363 (2) and has failed within a reasonable time or as ordered by the court to satisfy such obligation, and where the wage assignment proceeding under s. 767.265 and the account transfer under s. 767.267 are inapplicable, impractical or unfeasible, the court may on its own initiative, and shall on the application of the receiving party, issue an order requiring the payer to show cause at some reasonable time therein specified why he or she should not be punished for such misconduct as provided in ch. 785.

History: 1977 c. 105, 1979 c. 32-6s. 50, 92 (4): 1979 c. 196, 1979 c. 267 s. 17; Stats. 1979 s. 767.305; 1993 a. 481; 1995 a. 77, 1997 a. 22, 191-

INSERT 6-5

15 SECTION 6. 802.12 (3) (c) 2. of the statutes is amended to read: 802.12 (3) (c) 2. Maintenance under s. 767.26 or 767.2605.

(History: Sup. Ct. Order No. 93-13, 180 Wis 2d xv, 1995 a. 225, 1997 a. 191; 1999 a. 9. (ENDOFINSERT 6-5)

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