

ASSEMBLY, No. 898

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblyman ROCCO

1 AN ACT establishing a commission to examine and study child support
2 guidelines.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that the current child support
8 guidelines in the State are based on outdated information and that the
9 guidelines have been applied without regard to the parties involved or
10 their financial status. It is the intent of the Legislature to establish a
11 special commission to examine and study child support guidelines in
12 this State and to investigate the feasibility and practicability of
13 developing and instituting new guidelines.

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15 2. There is established the "Commission on Child Support
16 Guidelines." The commission shall consist of 13 members as follows:
17 the Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court and the
18 Commissioner of Human Services or their designees, who shall serve
19 ex-officio; four members of the Legislature, two of whom shall be
20 members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, who
21 shall not be from the same political party, and two of whom shall be
22 members of the General Assembly appointed by the Speaker of the
23 General Assembly, who shall not be from the same political party; and
24 seven public members, one of whom shall be a member of the New
25 Jersey Bar Association, one of whom shall be knowledgeable about
26 family financial planning, one of whom is a child support case
27 manager, one of whom is a custodial parent, one of whom is a
28 non-custodial parent, one of whom is an academician having expertise
29 in the area of child support and one of whom is a representative of
30 child welfare and social services agencies. The public members shall
31 be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the
32 Senate. The commission shall organize upon the appointment of a
33 majority of its authorized membership and shall elect a chairman from
34 among the members.

35 Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled in the

1 same manner as the original appointments were made. The members
2 of the commission shall serve without compensation but they shall be
3 eligible for reimbursement for necessary and reasonable expenses
4 incurred in the performance of their official duties within the limits of
5 funds appropriated for this purpose.

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7 3. The commission shall:

8 a. Examine and study the child support guidelines in the State;

9 b. Investigate the feasibility and practicability of developing and
10 instituting new guidelines; and

11 c. Report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and
12 the Legislature on or before December 31, 1995.

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14 4. The commission is authorized to:

15 a. Call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of employees
16 of any State, county or municipal department, board, bureau,
17 commission or agency as it may require and as may be available to it
18 for that purpose. All departments, agencies and divisions are
19 authorized and directed, to the extent not inconsistent with law, to
20 cooperate with the commission; and

21 b. Meet and hold hearings at the place or places it designates
22 during the sessions or recesses of the Legislature; and

23 c. Receive assistance and avail itself of the professional,
24 stenographic, administrative and clerical services of the Department of
25 Human Services, which may be necessary for the commission to
26 perform its duties.

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28 5. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire on
29 December 31, 1995.

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32 STATEMENT

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34 This bill establishes the Commission on Child Support Guidelines
35 which would examine and study the child support guidelines of this
36 State. The 13-member commission would also be authorized to:

37 1. Investigate the feasibility and practicability of developing and
38 instituting new guidelines; and

39 2. Report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and
40 the Legislature on or before December 31, 1995.

41 The members of the commission shall include the Chief Justice of
42 the New Jersey Supreme Court and the Commissioner of Human
43 Services, or their designees, four members of the Legislature and
44 seven public members who are knowledgeable about issues affecting
45 the child support system of the State.

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3 Establishes the Commission on Child Support Guidelines.