



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

*Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona*

# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **New Laws to Aid in Collection of Child Support Payments**

**PHOENIX** – New measures passed by the Arizona State Legislature and signed by Governor Doug Ducey are aimed at increasing collections from noncustodial parents who owe child support monies. HB 2139, sponsored by Representative Jill Norgaard, provides additional tools for the Department of Economic Security (DES) to collect support utilizing an insurance data match in partnership with insurers in the state. HB 2192, sponsored by Representative Regina Cobb, allows for the option of a restricted driver license for a non-custodial parent who is in arrears.

DES currently has the authority to issue income withholding orders to seize insurance settlements to pay back due child support, but doesn't always find out about them. The new provision in HB 2139, establishes a voluntary data match program with insurance companies. Another provision in HB 2139, allows for the posting on the internet a child support evader who owes twelve months or more in back payments. Prior to this legislation, evaders' pictures and information would only be posted if an arrest warrant had been issued for the evader.

"These measures will help those who need it most—children of non-custodial parents who have the means to pay child support, but refuse to do so," said DES Director Michael Traylor. "This legislation will serve as an additional means to collect child support, consistent with Governor Ducey's initiative."

Posting child support evader information online has proven effective in locating evaders and getting non-custodial parents to pay what they owe their children. In calendar year 2016, DES collected just over \$205,000 from cases posted on the DES child support evader website. Since featuring the evader site on social media per Governor Ducey's mention in his 2016 State of the State address and the #deadbeat campaign, nearly \$300,000 has been collected.

HB 2192 provides an option for a restricted driver license to address obligors who owe at least six months in back child support. The amended law allows a court to suspend or restrict the driver license of a person who owes back support if the court finds they had the ability to pay, but willfully refused to do so. This remedy is an important enforcement tool, as the ability to work and pay child support frequently depends on the ability to drive. A new option allowing for a restricted license—which puts limits on where and when the person who owes child support can and can't drive—increases the chances the person who owes child support can maintain employment and provide support for their children. The two pieces of legislation go into effect August 9, 2017.

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*The Arizona Department of Economic Security makes Arizona stronger by helping Arizonans reach their potential through temporary assistance for those in need, and care for the vulnerable.*

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