



For Immediate Release: February 16, 2005

New Bill Goes After Credit Ratings of Deadbeat Parents

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – Credit ratings would reflect a parent’s delinquent child-support payments if an innovative bill filed by Sen. Maida Coleman (St. Louis) is made into law.

SB 331 would also place restrictions on the bank accounts of non-custodial parents who are more than 15 days in arrears in child support payments.

Sen. Coleman said the bill was sparked by conversations with single parents who, after not receiving child-support payments on time, saw their credit ratings drop as a result of late bills.

“Many parents depend on child-support payments to pay their mortgages, their utility bills or their car payments. If they end up being reported to a credit agency because their child-support is late, then the non-custodial parent should also be reported,” Sen. Coleman said.

In addition, if a non-custodial parent is more than 15 days in arrears of child support, then a hold will be placed on their bank account which will prevent him or her from purchasing real or personal property and from starting a business.

If a non-custodial parent is more than 15 days delinquent in child support payments, a lien shall also be automatically filed on his or her real estate.

“Having and rearing children is a parent’s most important responsibility, and it’s time we crack down on deadbeat parents who do not take their responsibilities seriously,” Sen. Coleman said.
