

and 9J of Article 64A, are transferred to the [bureau of support enforcement] CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION effective January 1, 1979. All employees of the Division of Parole and Probation who are transferred shall become employees of the [bureau of support enforcement] CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION without diminution in salary or benefits. The [bureau] CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION is the public agency responsible for support enforcement in all criminal nonsupport cases and in all civil cases wherein payments are ordered to be made to a public agency or directly to the payee, except in those subdivisions where an agency of or the circuit court for the subdivision has responsibility for support enforcement.

(i) Any subdivision or circuit court having responsibility for collection and/or support enforcement may request that responsibility be transferred to the [bureau of support enforcement] CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION. Such request must be made to the Department of Human Resources no later than September 1 of the year preceding the fiscal year in which the responsibility is to be assumed by the [bureau] ADMINISTRATION. Any personnel of the subdivision or circuit court involved in such a transfer shall become classified employees of the State subject to the provisions of the State Merit System Law and be placed in that position which is comparable or most closely compares to their former position, without further examination or qualification. Such employees shall be credited with the years of service with the jurisdiction for the purposes of determining leave accumulation, shall become members of the State employees pension system and all previous pension contributions shall be transferred in accordance with Article 73B, and shall receive no diminution in compensation or accumulated leave solely as a result of such transfer. Annual leave in excess of that which may be retained annually in the State merit system may be retained at the time of transfer if such accumulation was permitted by the former employer.

(ii) Any subdivision in which support payments are collected by the Division of Parole and Probation on July 1, 1978 may elect to transfer the responsibility for collection of support payments to an agency of the subdivision or, with the consent of the court, to the circuit court for that subdivision. Such transfer may be made through notification by the subdivision to the Department of Human Resources no later than September 1, 1978. Such transfer will be effective January 1, 1979. Subsequently, any such transfer will require enactment of specific legislation.

(iii) When the responsibility for collection and/or support enforcement is exercised by a local agency or circuit court:

(a) The funds necessary to finance collection and/or support enforcement shall be derived from local and, to the extent available, federal resources.