

- (6) enforcing support obligations;
- (7) providing legal representation to clients; and
- (8) establishing contractual agreements with private or public entities to provide child support services.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section, the Secretary shall have the authority to sever contractual agreements with a State's Attorney and hire private counsel to provide legal representation for the Child Support Enforcement Administration.

(f) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all employees hired in [the] A demonstration site [after October 1, 1995] AFTER ITS DESIGNATION AS A DEMONSTRATION SITE shall be in the management service or special appointments in the State Personnel Management System.

(2) If a position in the A demonstration site is held by a classified service employee PRIOR TO ITS DESIGNATION AS A DEMONSTRATION SITE [on September 30, 1995], the position remains a classified service position or its equivalent in the State Personnel Management System until the position becomes vacant, at which time the position shall become a management service or special appointment position.

(g) The Secretary shall establish a performance incentive program to provide pay incentives for employees in [the] A demonstration site.

(h) The powers of the Secretary to carry out the provisions of this section shall be construed liberally.

Chapter 491 of the Acts of 1995

SECTION 13. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That an individual who is a State employee as of November 1, 1996, who is hired by a private contractor under Section 3 of this Act, and who remains employed by the contractor as of the termination of the Privatization Program established under Section 3 of this Act:

(1) may return to State service at any time while the Pilot Program is in existence and on the termination of the Pilot Program at a grade and step comparable to the grade and step that the employee would have attained but for the implementation of the Pilot Program and full restoration of benefits and seniority rights; and

(2) notwithstanding limits under §§ 22-216 and 23-214 of the State Personnel and Pensions Article, may be reinstated as a member of the Employees' Pension System PART II, CONTRIBUTORY PENSION BENEFIT, or the Employees' Retirement System in accordance with their membership as a State employee and be entitled to the restoration of any service credit to which the individual was entitled before employment with the private contractor whether or not the individual was vested under those systems.

SECTION 14. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 3 of this Act shall remain effective for the period of [4] 7 years[,] AND 4 MONTHS and, at the end