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Representative Hughes

Cosponsors: Representatives Flowers, Wagoner, Evans, Yuko, Williams, S.,

Bacon, Combs, DeBose, McGregor, J., Stebelton

Senators Buehrer, Carey, Fedor, Harris, Morano, Patton, Schuler, Wagoner

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A B I L L

To amend section 3105.171 of the Revised Code to 1
generally exclude a spouse's social security 2
benefits from a divorce court's jurisdiction. 3

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 3105.171 of the Revised Code be 4
amended to read as follows: 5

Sec. 3105.171. (A) As used in this section: 6

(1) "Distributive award" means any payment or payments, in 7
real or personal property, that are payable in a lump sum or over 8
time, in fixed amounts, that are made from separate property or 9
income, and that are not made from marital property and do not 10
constitute payments of spousal support, as defined in section 11
3105.18 of the Revised Code. 12

(2) "During the marriage" means whichever of the following is 13
applicable: 14

(a) Except as provided in division (A)(2)(b) of this section, 15
the period of time from the date of the marriage through the date 16

of the final hearing in an action for divorce or in an action for 17
legal separation; 18

(b) If the court determines that the use of either or both of 19
the dates specified in division (A)(2)(a) of this section would be 20
inequitable, the court may select dates that it considers 21
equitable in determining marital property. If the court selects 22
dates that it considers equitable in determining marital property, 23
"during the marriage" means the period of time between those dates 24
selected and specified by the court. 25

(3)(a) "Marital property" means, subject to division 26
(A)(3)(b) of this section, all of the following: 27

(i) All real and personal property that currently is owned by 28
either or both of the spouses, including, but not limited to, the 29
retirement benefits of the spouses, and that was acquired by 30
either or both of the spouses during the marriage; 31

(ii) All interest that either or both of the spouses 32
currently has in any real or personal property, including, but not 33
limited to, the retirement benefits of the spouses, and that was 34
acquired by either or both of the spouses during the marriage; 35

(iii) Except as otherwise provided in this section, all 36
income and appreciation on separate property, due to the labor, 37
monetary, or in-kind contribution of either or both of the spouses 38
that occurred during the marriage; 39

(iv) A participant account, as defined in section 148.01 of 40
the Revised Code, of either of the spouses, to the extent of the 41
following: the moneys that have been deferred by a continuing 42
member or participating employee, as defined in that section, and 43
that have been transmitted to the Ohio public employees deferred 44
compensation board during the marriage and any income that is 45
derived from the investment of those moneys during the marriage; 46
the moneys that have been deferred by an officer or employee of a 47

municipal corporation and that have been transmitted to the 48
governing board, administrator, depository, or trustee of the 49
deferred compensation program of the municipal corporation during 50
the marriage and any income that is derived from the investment of 51
those moneys during the marriage; or the moneys that have been 52
deferred by an officer or employee of a government unit, as 53
defined in section 148.06 of the Revised Code, and that have been 54
transmitted to the governing board, as defined in that section, 55
during the marriage and any income that is derived from the 56
investment of those moneys during the marriage. 57

(b) "Marital property" does not include any separate 58
property. 59

(4) "Passive income" means income acquired other than as a 60
result of the labor, monetary, or in-kind contribution of either 61
spouse. 62

(5) "Personal property" includes both tangible and intangible 63
personal property. 64

(6)(a) "Separate property" means all real and personal 65
property and any interest in real or personal property that is 66
found by the court to be any of the following: 67

(i) An inheritance by one spouse by bequest, devise, or 68
descent during the course of the marriage; 69

(ii) Any real or personal property or interest in real or 70
personal property that was acquired by one spouse prior to the 71
date of the marriage; 72

(iii) Passive income and appreciation acquired from separate 73
property by one spouse during the marriage; 74

(iv) Any real or personal property or interest in real or 75
personal property acquired by one spouse after a decree of legal 76
separation issued under section 3105.17 of the Revised Code; 77

(v) Any real or personal property or interest in real or personal property that is excluded by a valid antenuptial agreement; 78
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(vi) Compensation to a spouse for the spouse's personal injury, except for loss of marital earnings and compensation for expenses paid from marital assets; 81
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(vii) Any gift of any real or personal property or of an interest in real or personal property that is made after the date of the marriage and that is proven by clear and convincing evidence to have been given to only one spouse. 84
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(b) The commingling of separate property with other property of any type does not destroy the identity of the separate property as separate property, except when the separate property is not traceable. 88
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(B) In divorce proceedings, the court shall, and in legal separation proceedings upon the request of either spouse, the court may, determine what constitutes marital property and what constitutes separate property. In either case, upon making such a determination, the court shall divide the marital and separate property equitably between the spouses, in accordance with this section. For purposes of this section, the court has jurisdiction over all property, excluding the social security benefits of a spouse other than as set forth in division (F)(9) of this section, in which one or both spouses have an interest. 92
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(C)(1) Except as provided in this division or division (E) of this section, the division of marital property shall be equal. If an equal division of marital property would be inequitable, the court shall not divide the marital property equally but instead shall divide it between the spouses in the manner the court determines equitable. In making a division of marital property, the court shall consider all relevant factors, including those set 102
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forth in division (F) of this section. 109

(2) Each spouse shall be considered to have contributed 110
equally to the production and acquisition of marital property. 111

(3) The court shall provide for an equitable division of 112
marital property under this section prior to making any award of 113
spousal support to either spouse under section 3105.18 of the 114
Revised Code and without regard to any spousal support so awarded. 115

(4) If the marital property includes a participant account, 116
as defined in section 148.01 of the Revised Code, the court shall 117
not order the division or disbursement of the moneys and income 118
described in division (A)(3)(a)(iv) of this section to occur in a 119
manner that is inconsistent with the law, rules, or plan governing 120
the deferred compensation program involved or prior to the time 121
that the spouse in whose name the participant account is 122
maintained commences receipt of the moneys and income credited to 123
the account in accordance with that law, rules, and plan. 124

(D) Except as otherwise provided in division (E) of this 125
section or by another provision of this section, the court shall 126
disburse a spouse's separate property to that spouse. If a court 127
does not disburse a spouse's separate property to that spouse, the 128
court shall make written findings of fact that explain the factors 129
that it considered in making its determination that the spouse's 130
separate property should not be disbursed to that spouse. 131

(E)(1) The court may make a distributive award to facilitate, 132
effectuate, or supplement a division of marital property. The 133
court may require any distributive award to be secured by a lien 134
on the payor's specific marital property or separate property. 135

(2) The court may make a distributive award in lieu of a 136
division of marital property in order to achieve equity between 137
the spouses, if the court determines that a division of the 138
marital property in kind or in money would be impractical or 139

burdensome. 140

(3) If a spouse has engaged in financial misconduct, 141
including, but not limited to, the dissipation, destruction, 142
concealment, or fraudulent disposition of assets, the court may 143
compensate the offended spouse with a distributive award or with a 144
greater award of marital property. 145

(F) In making a division of marital property and in 146
determining whether to make and the amount of any distributive 147
award under this section, the court shall consider all of the 148
following factors: 149

(1) The duration of the marriage; 150

(2) The assets and liabilities of the spouses; 151

(3) The desirability of awarding the family home, or the 152
right to reside in the family home for reasonable periods of time, 153
to the spouse with custody of the children of the marriage; 154

(4) The liquidity of the property to be distributed; 155

(5) The economic desirability of retaining intact an asset or 156
an interest in an asset; 157

(6) The tax consequences of the property division upon the 158
respective awards to be made to each spouse; 159

(7) The costs of sale, if it is necessary that an asset be 160
sold to effectuate an equitable distribution of property; 161

(8) Any division or disbursement of property made in a 162
separation agreement that was voluntarily entered into by the 163
spouses; 164

(9) Any retirement benefits of the spouses, excluding the 165
social security benefits of a spouse except as may be relevant for 166
purposes of dividing a public pension; 167

(10) Any other factor that the court expressly finds to be 168

relevant and equitable. 169

(G) In any order for the division or disbursement of property 170
or a distributive award made pursuant to this section, the court 171
shall make written findings of fact that support the determination 172
that the marital property has been equitably divided and shall 173
specify the dates it used in determining the meaning of "during 174
the marriage." 175

(H) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the holding 176
of title to property by one spouse individually or by both spouses 177
in a form of co-ownership does not determine whether the property 178
is marital property or separate property. 179

(I) A division or disbursement of property or a distributive 180
award made under this section is not subject to future 181
modification by the court. 182

(J) The court may issue any orders under this section that it 183
determines equitable, including, but not limited to, either of the 184
following types of orders: 185

(1) An order granting a spouse the right to use the marital 186
dwelling or any other marital property or separate property for 187
any reasonable period of time; 188

(2) An order requiring the sale or encumbrancing of any real 189
or personal property, with the proceeds from the sale and the 190
funds from any loan secured by the encumbrance to be applied as 191
determined by the court. 192

Section 2. That existing section 3105.171 of the Revised Code 193
is hereby repealed. 194