

**FAMILY EXPENSES AMENDMENTS**

2015 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Curtis S. Bramble**

House Sponsor: Daniel McCay

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill amends provisions related to family expenses.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

▸ describes conditions of contracts or agreements between spouses related to family expenses.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**30-2-9**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 109

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **30-2-9** is amended to read:

**30-2-9. Family expenses -- Joint and several liability.**

(1) The expenses of the family and the education of the children are chargeable upon the property of both [~~husband and wife~~] spouses or of either of them[~~, and in relation thereto~~] separately, for which expenses they may be sued jointly or separately.

~~[(2) In an action by a creditor against either husband or wife for the payment of a family expense, the creditor or debtor as the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover~~

30 ~~reasonable collection costs, interest, and attorney fees as provided in a contract between the~~  
31 ~~creditor and debtor.]~~

32 (2) For the expenses described in Subsection (1), where there is a written agreement  
33 signed by either spouse that allows for the recovery of agreed upon amounts, a creditor or an  
34 assignee or successor in interest of the creditor is entitled to recover the contractually allowed  
35 amounts against both spouses, jointly and severally.

36 (3) Subsection (2) applies to all contracts and agreements under this section entered  
37 into by either spouse during the time the parties are married and living together.

38 (4) For the purposes of this section, family expenses are considered expenses incurred  
39 that benefit and promote the family unit. Items purchased pursuant to a written contract or  
40 agreement during the marriage that do not relate to family expenses are not covered by this  
41 section.

42 (5) The provisions of Subsections (2) and (3) do not create a right to attorney's fees or  
43 collection fees as to the nonsigning spouse for purchases of:

44 (a) food or clothing; or

45 (b) home improvements or repairs over \$5,000.