Florida Senate - 2006

By the Committee on Education; and Senators Wilson, Rich, Jones, Bennett, Hill, Smith, Peaden, Geller, Margolis, Lawson, Campbell, Bullard and Miller

| | 581-2266-06 |
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| 1 | A bill to be entitled |
| 2 | An act relating to adoption benefits; amending |
| 3 | s. 110.152, F.S.; defining the term "qualifying |
| 4 | adoptive parent"; expanding the categories of |
| 5 | persons who are eligible to be qualifying |
| 6 | adoptive parents; providing that a qualifying |
| 7 | adoptive parent who adopts a special-needs |
| 8 | child is eligible to receive a specified |
| 9 | monetary benefit that is paid to the adoptive |
| 10 | parent in equal monthly installments over a |
| 11 | 1-year period; amending s. 110.15201, F.S.; |
| 12 | authorizing the Department of Management |
| 13 | Services to adopt rules to administer the |
| 14 | adoption benefits program; providing an |
| 15 | effective date. |
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| 17 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: |
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| 19 | Section 1. Section 110.152, Florida Statutes, is |
| 20 | amended to read: |
| 21 | 110.152 Adoption benefits for <u>qualifying adoptive</u> |
| 22 | parents state employees; parental leave |
| 23 | (1) As used in this section, the term "qualifying |
| 24 | adoptive parent" means a full-time or part-time employee of: |
| 25 | (a) The state, including a full-time or part-time |
| 26 | employee of the State University System; |
| 27 | (b) Any community college in the state; and |
| 28 | (c) Any county school district in the state, including |
| 29 | teachers. |
| 30 | <u>(2)(1)</u> (a) Any <u>qualifying adoptive parent</u> full time or |
| 31 | part time employee of the state who is paid from regular |
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| 1 | salary appropriations and who adopts a special-needs child, as |
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| 2 | defined in paragraph (b), is eligible to receive a monetary |
| 3 | benefit in the amount of \$10,000 per child, which is payable |
| 4 | in equal monthly installments over a 1-year period. Any |
| 5 | <u>qualifying adoptive parent</u> employee of the state who adopts a |
| 6 | child whose permanent custody has been awarded to the |
| 7 | Department of Children and Family Services or to a |
| 8 | Florida-licensed child-placing agency, other than a |
| 9 | special-needs child as defined in paragraph (b), shall be |
| 10 | eligible to receive a monetary benefit in the amount of $$5,000$ |
| 11 | per child, which is payable in equal monthly installments over |
| 12 | a 1-year period. Benefits paid under this subsection to a |
| 13 | part-time employee must be prorated based on the employee's |
| 14 | full-time-equivalency status at the time of applying for the |
| 15 | benefits. |
| 16 | (b) For purposes of this section, a "special-needs |
| 17 | child" is a child whose permanent custody has been awarded to |
| 18 | the Department of Children and Family Services or to a |
| 19 | Florida-licensed child-placing agency and who is not likely to |
| 20 | be adopted because he or she is: |
| 21 | 1. Eight years of age or older. |
| 22 | 2. A person with a developmental disability. |
| 23 | 3. A person with a physical or emotional handicap. |
| 24 | 4. Of a minority race or of a racially mixed heritage. |
| 25 | 5. A member of a sibling group of any age, provided |
| 26 | that two or more members of a sibling group remain together |
| 27 | for the purposes of adoption. |
| 28 | (3)(2) A qualifying adoptive parent An employee of the |
| 29 | state who adopts a special-needs child must apply to his or |
| 30 | her agency head to obtain the monetary benefit provided in |
| 31 | subsection (2) (1). Applications must be on forms approved by |
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1 the department and must include a certified copy of the final 2 order of adoption naming the applicant as the adoptive parent. (4)(3) Nothing in This section does not shall affect 3 4 the right of any qualifying adoptive parent state employee who adopts a special-needs child to receive financial aid for 5 6 adoption expenses under pursuant to s. 409.166 or any other 7 statute that provides financial incentives for the adoption of 8 children. 9 (5)(4) Any <u>qualifying adoptive parent</u> employee of the state who has a child placed in the custody of the adopting 10 parent employee for adoption, and who continues to reside in 11 12 the same household as the child placed for adoption, shall be 13 granted parental leave for a period not to exceed 6 months as provided in s. 110.221. 14 Section 2. Section 110.15201, Florida Statutes, is 15 16 amended to read: 17 110.15201 Adoption benefits for qualifying adoptive 18 parents state employees; rulemaking authority.--The Department of Management Services may adopt rules to administer the 19 provisions of this act. The Such rules may provide for an 20 application process such as, but not limited to, an open 21 22 enrollment period during which gualifying adoptive parents 23 employees may apply for monetary benefits as provided in s. 110.152(2) s. 110.152(1). 2.4 25 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006. 26 27 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR 2.8 Senate Bill 1896 29 The committee substitute specifies that for an employee to be 30 a qualifying adoptive parent for purposes of adoption benefits, the community college or school district that 31 employs the individual must be located in Florida.

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