

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to motor vehicle insurance and driver education for children in foster care; creating s. 409.1454, F.S.; directing the Department of Children and Families to establish a statewide pilot program to pay specified costs of driver education, driver licensing and costs incidental to licensing, and motor vehicle insurance for a child in foster care who meets certain qualifications; requiring the department to contract with a qualified not-for-profit organization to develop procedures for operating and administering the pilot program; requiring the department to submit an annual report with recommendations to the Governor and Legislature; creating s. 743.047, F.S.; removing the disability of nonage of minors for purposes of obtaining motor vehicle insurance; amending s. 1003.48, F.S.; providing for preferential enrollment in driver education courses for children in foster care; providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 409.1454, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

409.1454 Motor vehicle insurance for children in foster

27 care.—

28 (1) The Legislature finds that the costs of driver
29 education, driver licensing and costs incidental to licensing,
30 and motor vehicle insurance for a child in foster care after the
31 child obtains a driver license create additional barriers to the
32 child engaging in normal age-appropriate activities and gaining
33 independence and may limit opportunities for the child to obtain
34 employment and complete educational goals. The Legislature also
35 finds that the completion of a driver education course is
36 necessary to develop safe driving skills.

37 (2) Subject to legislative appropriation, the department
38 shall establish a 3-year pilot program to pay the costs of
39 driver education, driver licensing and costs incidental to
40 licensing, and motor vehicle insurance for children in foster
41 care who have successfully completed a driver education course.

42 (3) If a caregiver, or an individual or not-for-profit
43 entity approved by a caregiver, adds one or more children to the
44 caregiver's or entity's existing motor vehicle insurance policy,
45 the department shall pay to the caregiver or entity an amount
46 not to exceed the amount of the increase in the cost incurred by
47 the caregiver or entity as a result of adding the children to
48 the policy.

49 (4) The department shall make payments to eligible
50 caregivers or entities in the order of eligibility until
51 available funds are exhausted.

52 (5) The department shall contract with a not-for-profit

53 organization whose mission is to support children aging out of
54 foster care to develop procedures for operating the pilot
55 program and for administering the pilot program, including, but
56 not limited to:

57 (a) Determining eligibility, including responsibilities
58 for the child and caregivers.

59 (b) Developing application and payment forms.

60 (c) Notifying eligible children, caregivers, group homes,
61 and residential programs of the pilot program.

62 (d) Providing technical assistance to lead agencies,
63 providers, group homes, and residential programs to support the
64 removal of obstacles for children in foster care to drive.

65 (6) The department shall submit to the Governor, the
66 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
67 Representatives a report on the success and outcomes achieved by
68 the pilot program with a recommendation as to whether the pilot
69 program should be continued, terminated, or expanded. A report
70 shall be submitted annually for the duration of the pilot
71 program with the first report being due on July 1, 2015.

72 Section 2. Section 743.047, Florida Statutes, is created
73 to read:

74 743.047 Removal of disabilities of minors; executing
75 agreements for motor vehicle insurance.—For purposes of ensuring
76 that a child in foster care is able to secure motor vehicle
77 insurance, the disability of nonage of minors shall be removed
78 for a child that has reached 16 years of age, has been

79 adjudicated dependent, is residing in an out-of-home placement
80 as defined in s. 39.01, and has completed a driver education
81 course. A court of competent jurisdiction may issue an order
82 removing the disability and authorizing a child to make and
83 execute all contracts or agreements necessary for obtaining
84 motor vehicle insurance as if the child were otherwise competent
85 to make and execute contracts. Execution of any contract or
86 agreement for motor vehicle insurance shall have the same effect
87 as if it were the act of a person who is not a minor. A child
88 seeking to enter into contracts or agreements or execute other
89 necessary instruments incidental to obtaining motor vehicle
90 insurance must present to the other contracting party an order
91 from a court of competent jurisdiction removing the disability
92 of nonage of the child under this section.

93 Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 1003.48, Florida
94 Statutes, is amended to read:

95 1003.48 Instruction in operation of motor vehicles.—

96 (1) A course of study and instruction in the safe and
97 lawful operation of a motor vehicle shall be made available by
98 each district school board to students in the secondary schools
99 in the state. The district school board shall provide
100 preferential enrollment to a student in the custody of the
101 Department of Children and Families as long as that student
102 maintains appropriate progress as required by the educational
103 institution. As used in this section, the term "motor vehicle"
104 has ~~shall have~~ the same meaning as provided in s. 320.01(1)(a)

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105 and includes ~~shall include~~ motorcycles and mopeds. Instruction
106 in motorcycle or moped operation may be limited to classroom
107 instruction. The course shall not be made a part of, or a
108 substitute for, any of the minimum requirements for graduation.

109 Section 4. For the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the sum of \$1.5
110 million is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the
111 Department of Children and Families for the purposes of
112 implementing this act.

113 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.