

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to adoption benefits; amending s.
 3 409.1664, F.S.; revising the definition of the term
 4 "qualifying adoptive employee" to include employees of
 5 charter schools and the Florida Virtual School for the
 6 purpose of extending state employee adoption benefits
 7 to such employees; providing for retroactive
 8 application; requiring such employees to apply to
 9 their school directors to obtain certain monetary
 10 benefits; requiring the Chief Financial Officer to
 11 transfer funds to charter schools and the Florida
 12 Virtual School to enable payments to such employees;
 13 providing an effective date.

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

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 17 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsections
 18 (2), (3), (5), and (7) of section 409.1664, Florida Statutes,
 19 are amended to read:

20 409.1664 Adoption benefits for qualifying adoptive
 21 employees of state agencies.—

22 (1) As used in this section, the term:

23 (b) "Qualifying adoptive employee" means a full-time or
 24 part-time employee of a state agency, a charter school
 25 established under s. 1002.33, or the Florida Virtual School

26 | established under s. 1002.37 who is paid from regular salary
27 | appropriations, or otherwise meets his or her ~~the state agency~~
28 | employer's definition of a regular rather than temporary
29 | employee, and who adopts a child within the child welfare system
30 | pursuant to chapter 63 on or after July 1, 2015. The term
31 | includes instructional personnel, as defined in s. 1012.01, who
32 | are employed by the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.

33 | (2) A qualifying adoptive employee who adopts a child
34 | within the child welfare system who has special needs described
35 | in s. 409.166(2)(a)2. is eligible to receive a lump-sum monetary
36 | benefit in the amount of \$10,000 per such child, subject to
37 | applicable taxes. A qualifying adoptive employee who adopts a
38 | child within the child welfare system who does not have special
39 | needs described in s. 409.166(2)(a)2. is eligible to receive a
40 | lump-sum monetary benefit in the amount of \$5,000 per such
41 | child, subject to applicable taxes. A qualifying adoptive
42 | employee of a charter school or the Florida Virtual School may
43 | retroactively apply for the monetary benefit provided in this
44 | subsection if such employee was employed by a charter school or
45 | the Florida Virtual School when he or she adopted a child within
46 | the child welfare system pursuant to chapter 63 on or after July
47 | 1, 2015.

48 | (a) Benefits paid to a qualifying adoptive employee who is
49 | a part-time employee must be prorated based on the qualifying
50 | adoptive employee's full-time equivalency at the time of

51 applying for the benefits.

52 (b) Monetary benefits awarded under this subsection are
53 limited to one award per adopted child within the child welfare
54 system.

55 (c) The payment of a lump-sum monetary benefit for
56 adopting a child within the child welfare system under this
57 section is subject to a specific appropriation to the department
58 for such purpose.

59 (3) A qualifying adoptive employee must apply to his or
60 her agency head, or to his or her school director in the case of
61 a qualifying adoptive employee of a charter school or the
62 Florida Virtual School, to obtain the monetary benefit provided
63 in subsection (2). Applications must be on forms approved by the
64 department and must include a certified copy of the final order
65 of adoption naming the applicant as the adoptive parent.
66 Monetary benefits shall be approved on a first-come, first-
67 served basis based upon the date that each fully completed
68 application is received by the department.

69 (5) Parental leave for a qualifying adoptive employee must
70 be provided in accordance with the personnel policies and
71 procedures of his or her ~~the employee's state agency~~ employer.

72 (7) The Chief Financial Officer shall disburse a monetary
73 benefit to a qualifying adoptive employee upon the department's
74 submission of a payroll requisition. The Chief Financial Officer
75 shall transfer funds from the department to a state university,

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76 | a Florida College System institution, a school district unit, a
77 | charter school, the Florida Virtual School, or a water
78 | management district, as appropriate, to enable payment to the
79 | qualifying adoptive employee through the payroll systems as long
80 | as funds are available for such purpose.

81 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.