

By Senator Thurston

33-01370-19

2019918__

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to adoption assistance for children in
3 the child welfare system; amending s. 409.166, F.S.;
4 requiring that court costs for all adoptive parents
5 who adopt children in the custody of the Department of
6 Children and Families be waived, rather than
7 reimbursed, by the department; providing an effective
8 date.

9
10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

11
12 Section 1. Subsections (6) and (7) of section 409.166,
13 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

14 409.166 Children within the child welfare system; adoption
15 assistance program.—

16 (6) WAIVER OF ADOPTION FEES.—The adoption fees and court
17 costs shall be waived for all adoptive parents who adopt
18 children in the custody of the department. Fees may be waived
19 for families who adopt children in the custody of a licensed
20 child-placing agency or who adopt children through independent
21 adoptions, and who receive or may be eligible for maintenance
22 subsidies through the department. Retroactive reimbursement of
23 fees is not required for families who adopt children in the
24 custody of licensed child-placing agencies.

25 (7) REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES.—The department is
26 authorized to reimburse, retroactive to January 1, 1987, up to
27 \$1,000 in nonrecurring expenses related to the adoption of a
28 child which have been incurred by adoptive parents. For purposes
29 of this subsection, "nonrecurring expenses" means one-time

33-01370-19

2019918__

30 expenses, such as attorney fees ~~attorney's fees, court costs,~~
31 birth certificate fees, travel expenses, agency fees, and
32 physical examination fees.

33 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.