



649144

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
03/21/2017	.	
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The Committee on Education (Stargel) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsections  
(3) and (7) of section 409.1664, Florida Statutes, are amended,  
and paragraph (d) is added to subsection (2) of that section, to  
read:

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

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



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12 (b) "Qualifying adoptive employee" means a full-time or  
13 part-time employee of a state agency, a charter school as  
14 defined in s. 1002.33, or the Florida Virtual School established  
15 under s. 1002.37 who is paid from regular salary appropriations,  
16 or otherwise meets his or her ~~the state agency~~ employer's  
17 definition of a regular rather than temporary employee, and who  
18 adopts a child within the child welfare system pursuant to  
19 chapter 63 on or after July 1, 2015. The term includes  
20 instructional personnel, as defined in s. 1012.01, who are  
21 employed by the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.

22 (2) A qualifying adoptive employee who adopts a child  
23 within the child welfare system who has special needs described  
24 in s. 409.166(2)(a)2. is eligible to receive a lump-sum monetary  
25 benefit in the amount of \$10,000 per such child, subject to  
26 applicable taxes. A qualifying adoptive employee who adopts a  
27 child within the child welfare system who does not have special  
28 needs described in s. 409.166(2)(a)2. is eligible to receive a  
29 lump-sum monetary benefit in the amount of \$5,000 per such  
30 child, subject to applicable taxes.

31 (d) A qualifying adoptive employee of a charter school or  
32 the Florida Virtual School may retroactively apply for the  
33 adoption benefit if he or she was employed by a charter school  
34 or the Florida Virtual School at the time of the adoption of a  
35 child from the child welfare system pursuant to chapter 63 and  
36 the adoption occurred on or after July 1, 2015.

37 (3) A qualifying adoptive employee must apply to his or her  
38 agency head or, in the case of an employee of a charter school  
39 or the Florida Virtual School, to the school director to obtain  
40 the monetary benefit provided in subsection (2). Applications



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41 must be on forms approved by the department and must include a  
42 certified copy of the final order of adoption naming the  
43 applicant as the adoptive parent. Monetary benefits shall be  
44 approved on a first-come, first-served basis based upon the date  
45 that each fully completed application is received by the  
46 department.

47 (7) The Chief Financial Officer shall disburse a monetary  
48 benefit to a qualifying adoptive employee upon the department's  
49 submission of a payroll requisition. The Chief Financial Officer  
50 shall transfer funds from the department to a state university,  
51 Florida College System institution, school district unit,  
52 charter school, the Florida Virtual School, or water management  
53 district, as appropriate, to enable payment to the qualifying  
54 adoptive employee through the payroll systems as long as funds  
55 are available for such purpose.

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

57  
58 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

59 And the title is amended as follows:

60 Delete everything before the enacting clause  
61 and insert:

62 A bill to be entitled  
63 An act relating to adoption benefits; amending s.  
64 409.1664, F.S.; revising the definition of the term  
65 "qualifying adoptive employee" to include persons  
66 employed by charter schools and the Florida Virtual  
67 School for the purpose of extending adoption benefits  
68 to those employees; authorizing such employees of  
69 charter schools and the Florida Virtual School to



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apply retroactively for the adoption benefit in  
certain circumstances; providing an effective date.