

By Senator Campbell

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the subsidized adoption program for the special needs child; amending s. 409.166, F.S.; amending the definition of the term "special needs child"; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 409.166, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

409.166 Special needs children; subsidized adoption program.--

(2) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Special needs child" means a child whose permanent custody has been awarded to the department or to a licensed child-placing agency and

1. Who has established significant emotional ties with his or her foster parents; or
2. Is not likely to be adopted because he or she is:
  - a. Eight years of age or older;
  - b. Developmentally disabled;
  - c. Significantly developmentally delayed due to the mother's substance abuse while pregnant ~~Mentally retarded;~~
  - d.~~c.~~ Physically or emotionally handicapped;
  - e.~~d.~~ Of black or racially mixed parentage; or
  - f.~~e.~~ A member of a sibling group of any age, provided two or more members of a sibling group remain together for purposes of adoption.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

**CODING:**Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Amends the definition of the term "special needs child," as it applies to the provision of adoption subsidies, by replacing the term "mentally retarded" with the term "developmentally disabled" and adding those who are developmentally disabled because of the mothers' substance abuse.