

By the Committees on Fiscal Policy; Governmental Oversight and Productivity; and Senators Cowin and Mitchell

309-2225-00

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to adoption benefits for state
 3 and water management district employees;
 4 creating s. 110.152, F.S.; providing a monetary
 5 benefit for a state employee who adopts a
 6 special-needs child; providing a monetary
 7 benefit for a state employee who adopts a child
 8 not defined as a special-needs child; defining
 9 the term "special-needs child" for purposes of
 10 the act; providing procedure; providing for
 11 eligibility for parental leave; providing
 12 conditions of such leave; authorizing the
 13 Department of Management Services to adopt
 14 rules; providing an appropriation; providing an
 15 effective date.

16
 17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

18
 19 Section 1. Section 110.152, Florida Statutes, is
 20 created to read:

21 110.152 Adoption benefits for state or water
 22 management district employees; parental leave.--
 23 (1)(a) Any employee of the state or of a water
 24 management district who adopts a special-needs child, as
 25 defined in paragraph (b), is eligible to receive a monetary
 26 benefit in the amount of \$10,000 per child, \$5,000 of which is
 27 payable in equal monthly installments over a 2-year period.
 28 Any employee of the state or of a water management district
 29 who adopts a child, other than a special-needs child as
 30 defined in paragraph (b), shall be eligible to receive a
 31 monetary benefit in the amount of \$5,000 per child, \$2,000 of

1 which is payable in equal monthly installments over a 2-year
2 period.

3 (b) For purposes of this section, a "special-needs
4 child" is a child whose permanent custody has been awarded to
5 the Department of Children and Family Services or to a
6 Florida-licensed child-placing agency and who is not likely to
7 be adopted because he or she is:

8 1. Eight years of age or older.

9 2. A person with a developmental disability.

10 3. A person with a physical or emotional handicap.

11 4. Of a minority race or of a racially mixed heritage.

12 5. A member of a sibling group of any age, provided
13 that two or more members of a sibling group remain together
14 for the purposes of adoption.

15 (2) An employee of the state or of a water management
16 district who adopts a special-needs child must apply to his or
17 her agency head to obtain the monetary benefit provided in
18 subsection (1). Applications must be on forms approved by the
19 department and must include a certified copy of the final
20 order of adoption naming the applicant as the adoptive parent.

21 (3) Nothing in this section shall affect the right of
22 any state employee who adopts a special-needs child to receive
23 financial aid for adoption expenses pursuant to s. 409.166 or
24 any other statute that provides financial incentives for the
25 adoption of children.

26 (4) Any employee of the state or of a water management
27 district who has a child placed in the custody of the employee
28 for adoption, and who continues to resides in the same
29 household as the child placed for adoption, shall be granted
30 parental leave for a period not to exceed 6 months as provided
31 in s. 110.221.

1 Section 2. The Department of Management Services may
2 adopt rules to administer the provisions of this act.

3 Section 3. The sum of \$140,000 in appropriated from
4 nonrecurring general revenue to the Department of Management
5 Services for the purpose of administering the provisions of
6 this act during the 2000-2001 fiscal year.

7 Section 4. This act shall take effect October 1, 2000,
8 and shall apply to adoptions finalized on and after that date.

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10 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
11 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
12 CS/SB 2208

13 Provides a monetary benefit of \$5,000 for a state employee or
14 water management district employee who adopts a child not
defined as a special-needs child.

15 Authorizes the Department of Management Services to adopt
16 rules.

17 Appropriates \$140,000 from the General Revenue Fund to the
18 Department of Management Services to implement the provisions
of the act.