

By Representative Littlefield

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act providing adoption benefits for
3 employees of the state or water management
4 districts; amending s. 110.152, F.S.;
5 specifying employees who are entitled to
6 receive such benefits for adopting a
7 special-needs child; prescribing the manner of
8 establishing the amount of such benefits;
9 amending s. 110.15201, F.S.; providing that
10 rules for administering such adoption benefits
11 may provide for an application process;
12 providing an effective date.

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

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16 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 110.152, Florida
17 Statutes, is amended to read:

18 110.152 Adoption benefits for state or water
19 management district employees; parental leave.--

20 (1)(a) Any full-time or part-time employee of the
21 state or of a water management district who is paid from
22 regular salary appropriations and who adopts a special-needs
23 child, as defined in paragraph (b), is eligible to receive a
24 monetary benefit in the amount of \$10,000 per child, \$5,000 of
25 which is payable in equal monthly installments over a 2-year
26 period. Any employee of the state or of a water management
27 district who adopts a child, other than a special-needs child
28 as defined in paragraph (b), shall be eligible to receive a
29 monetary benefit in the amount of \$5,000 per child, \$2,000 of
30 which is payable in equal monthly installments over a 2-year
31 period. Benefits paid under this subsection to a part-time

1 employee must be prorated based on the employee's
2 full-time-equivalency status at the time of applying for the
3 benefits.

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

- 9 1. Eight years of age or older.
- 10 2. A person with a developmental disability.
- 11 3. A person with a physical or emotional handicap.
- 12 4. Of a minority race or of a racially mixed heritage.
- 13 5. A member of a sibling group of any age, provided
14 that two or more members of a sibling group remain together
15 for the purposes of adoption.

16 Section 2. Section 110.15201, Florida Statutes. is
17 amended to read:

18 110.15201 Adoption benefits for state or water
19 management district employees; rulemaking authority.--The
20 Department of Management Services may adopt rules to
21 administer the provisions of this act. Such rules may provide
22 for an application process such as, but not limited to, an
23 open-enrollment period during which employees may apply for
24 monetary benefits as provided in subsection (1).

25 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.
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SENATE SUMMARY

Specifies employees of water management districts who are entitled to receive adoption benefits for adopting a special-needs child. Provides for a part-time employee of the state or of a water management district to receive benefits prorated on the basis of the employee's full-time-equivalency status. Provides that rules for administering such adoption benefits may provide for an application process.