

By Senator Bennett

21-661-04

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to motor vehicle insurance for
3 foster children; creating a pilot program for
4 the purpose of reimbursing foster parents for a
5 portion of the increased costs of motor vehicle
6 insurance for a foster child who has a driver's
7 license; directing the Department of Children
8 and Family Services to establish the pilot
9 program in Sarasota and DeSoto Counties;
10 requiring that the remaining portion of the
11 increase in costs be borne by the foster child;
12 prohibiting a child who accumulates a specified
13 number of points due to moving traffic
14 violations from participating in the pilot
15 program; providing an appropriation; providing
16 an effective date.

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

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20 Section 1. The Legislature finds that foster parents
21 bear the increased cost of motor vehicle liability insurance
22 for a foster child after that child attains a driver's
23 license. This increase in the cost of insurance creates an
24 additional barrier for a foster child in gaining independence
25 and may limit the child's opportunities for obtaining
26 employment. In accordance with these findings, the Legislature
27 directs the Department of Children and Family Services to
28 establish a 3-year pilot program in Sarasota and DeSoto
29 Counties. The pilot program shall provide funds to reimburse
30 foster parents for the increase in the cost of motor vehicle
31 liability insurance. To be eligible for reimbursement under

1 the pilot program, a foster parent must submit appropriate
2 documentation to the department demonstrating the increase in
3 the cost of insurance. The department shall reimburse the
4 foster parent for one-half of the amount of increase in the
5 parent's cost of motor vehicle liability insurance which is
6 incurred as a result of adding the foster child to the policy.
7 The foster child must pay the other half of the increase in
8 insurance costs. If a foster child accumulates six or more
9 points due to one or more moving traffic violations, the
10 child's foster parent is ineligible to receive reimbursement
11 for the increase in insurance costs incurred for that child.

12 Section 2. The sum of \$200,000 is appropriated from
13 the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Children and
14 Family Services for the purpose of implementing this act
15 during the 2004-2005 fiscal year.

16 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.

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19 SENATE SUMMARY

20 Creates a 3-year pilot program to reimburse foster
21 parents for one-half of the increase in the costs of
22 motor vehicle insurance for a foster child with a
23 driver's license. Directs the Department of Children and
24 Family Services to establish the pilot program in
25 Sarasota and DeSoto Counties. Requires that one-half of
26 the increased costs be borne by the foster child. Directs
27 that any foster child who accumulates a specified number
28 of vehicular-driving-violation points may not participate
29 in the pilot program. Provides an appropriation.

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