

HB 0363

2004

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to motor vehicle insurance for foster children; creating a pilot program for the purpose of reimbursing foster parents for a portion of the increased costs of motor vehicle insurance for a foster child who has a driver's license; directing the Department of Children and Family Services to establish the pilot program in Sarasota and DeSoto Counties; requiring that the remaining portion of the increase in costs be borne by the foster child; prohibiting a child who accumulates a specified number of points due to moving traffic violations from participating in the pilot program; providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. The Legislature finds that foster parents bear the increased cost of motor vehicle liability insurance for a foster child after that child attains a driver's license. This increase in the cost of insurance creates an additional barrier for a foster child in gaining independence and may limit the child's opportunities for obtaining employment. In accordance with these findings, the Legislature directs the Department of Children and Family Services to establish a 3-year pilot program in Sarasota and DeSoto Counties. The pilot program shall provide funds to reimburse foster parents for the increase in the cost of motor vehicle liability insurance. To be eligible for reimbursement under the pilot program, a foster parent must submit appropriate documentation to the department demonstrating

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30 the increase in the cost of insurance. The department shall
31 reimburse the foster parent for one-half of the amount of
32 increase in the parent's cost of motor vehicle liability
33 insurance which is incurred as a result of adding the foster
34 child to the policy. The foster child must pay the other half of
35 the increase in insurance costs. If a foster child accumulates
36 six or more points due to one or more moving traffic violations,
37 the child's foster parent is ineligible to receive reimbursement
38 for the increase in insurance costs incurred for that child.

39 Section 2. The sum of \$200,000 is appropriated from the
40 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Children and Family
41 Services for the purpose of implementing this act during the
42 2004-2005 fiscal year.

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