Florida Senate - 2005

By Senator Bennett

21-195-05

2An act relating to motor vehicle insurance for3foster children; creating a pilot program for4the purpose of reimbursing foster parents,5residential facilities, or foster children who6live independently for a portion of the7increased costs of motor vehicle insurance for8a foster child who has a driver's license;9directing the Department of Children and Family10Services to establish the pilot program in11Sarasota, DeSoto, Manatee, Pinellas, and Pasco12Counties; requiring that the person who incurs13the increased cost submit to the department14documentation of that increase; requiring that15foster children be encouraged to pay the16remaining portion of the increase in costs;17directing the department to develop procedures18for operating the pilot program; requiring the19department to submit a report with20recommendations to the Governor and the
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20 recommendations to the Governor and the
21 Legislature by a specified date; providing an
22 appropriation; providing an effective date.
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24 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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26 Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds that the
27 increased cost of motor vehicle insurance for a foster child
28 after that child attains a driver's license is borne by the
29 foster parents and the authorized representative of the
30 residential facility. This increase in the cost of insurance
31 creates an additional barrier for a foster child in gaining

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independence and may limit the child's opportunities for obtaining employment. In accordance with these findings, the Department of Children and Family Services shall establish a 3-year pilot program in Sarasota, Desoto, Manatee, Pinellas, and Pasco Counties to pay a portion of the cost of motor vehicle insurance for foster children who have obtained a driver's license. (2) To the extent that funding is available, the pilot program shall provide funds to pay for a portion of the increase in the cost of motor vehicle insurance incurred by the foster parents, residential facilities, or the foster child if living independently. To be eligible for payment under the pilot program, the person incurring the cost must submit to the department appropriate documentation demonstrating the increase in the cost of insurance. The amount of the payment provided to the foster parent, residential facility, or foster child if living independently shall be one-half of the amount of the increase in the cost of motor vehicle insurance which is incurred as a result of adding the foster child to the policy or less than one-half if another source of funding is available to pay for the increase. The foster child must be encouraged to pay the other half of the increase in insurance costs. (3) The department shall develop procedures for operating the pilot program, including, but not limited to, determining eligibility, providing the payment, ensuring that payment is limited solely to the additional costs of including the foster child in the insurance policy, and allocating

- 29 <u>available funds.</u>
- 30 (4) The department shall examine and use, to the
- 31 extent possible, other available options for funding the cost

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1 of the motor vehicle insurance increase, such as, but not 2 limited to, through the child's master trust fund, social security income, child support payments, and other income 3 4 available to the child. 5 (5) Beginning July 1, 2006, and continuing for the 6 duration of the pilot program, the department shall submit to 7 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of 8 the House of Representatives an annual report on the success and outcomes achieved by the pilot program, with a 9 10 recommendation as to whether the pilot program should be continued, terminated, or expanded. 11 12 Section 2. The sum of \$50,000 is appropriated from the 13 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Children and Family Services for the purpose of implementing this act during the 14 2005-2006 fiscal year. 15 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005. 16 17 ***** 18 SENATE SUMMARY 19 20 Creates a pilot program to reimburse foster parents, residential facilities, or foster children who live independently for a portion of the increased costs of 21 motor vehicle insurance for a foster child who has a 2.2 driver's license. Directs the Department of Children and Family Services to establish the pilot program in 23 specified counties. Requires a person who incurs the increased cost to submit documentation of the increase. Requires that foster children be encouraged to pay the 2.4 remaining portion of the increased costs. Directs the 25 department to develop procedures to operate the pilot program. Directs the department to submit a report with recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature by a 26 specified date. Provides an appropriation. 27 28 29 30 31

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