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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to motor vehicle insurance for foster children; creating a pilot program to reimburse foster parents, residential facilities, or foster children who live independently 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, DeSoto, Manatee, Pinellas, and Pasco Counties; requiring that the person who incurs the increased cost submit to the department documentation of that increase; requiring that foster children be encouraged to pay the remaining portion of the increase in costs; directing the department to develop procedures for operating the pilot program; requiring the department to submit a report with recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date; providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds that the increased cost of motor vehicle insurance for a foster child after that child attains a driver's license is borne by the foster parents and the authorized representative of the residential facility. 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

29 accordance with these findings, the Department of Children and
 30 Family Services shall establish a 3-year pilot program in
 31 Sarasota, Desoto, Manatee, Pinellas, and Pasco Counties to pay a
 32 portion of the cost of motor vehicle insurance for foster
 33 children who have obtained a driver's license.

34 (2) To the extent that funding is available, the pilot
 35 program shall provide funds to pay for a portion of the increase
 36 in the cost of motor vehicle insurance incurred by the foster
 37 parents, residential facilities, or the foster child if living
 38 independently. To be eligible for payment under the pilot
 39 program, the person incurring the cost must submit to the
 40 department appropriate documentation demonstrating the increase
 41 in the cost of insurance. The amount of the payment provided to
 42 the foster parent, residential facility, or foster child if
 43 living independently shall be one-half of the amount of the
 44 increase in the cost of motor vehicle insurance which is
 45 incurred as a result of adding the foster child to the policy or
 46 less than one-half if another source of funding is available to
 47 pay for the increase. The foster child must be encouraged to pay
 48 the other half of the increase in insurance costs.

49 (3) The department shall develop procedures for operating
 50 the pilot program, including, but not limited to, determining
 51 eligibility, providing the payment, ensuring that payment is
 52 limited solely to the additional costs of including the foster
 53 child in the insurance policy, and allocating available funds.

54 (4) The department shall examine and use, to the extent
 55 possible, other available options for funding the cost of the
 56 motor vehicle insurance increase, such as, but not limited to,

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57 through the child's master trust fund, social security income,
58 child support payments, and other income available to the child.

59 (5) Beginning July 1, 2006, and continuing for the
60 duration of the pilot program, the department shall submit to
61 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of
62 the House of Representatives an annual report on the success and
63 outcomes achieved by the pilot program, with a recommendation as
64 to whether the pilot program should be continued, terminated, or
65 expanded.

66 Section 2. The sum of \$50,000 is appropriated from the
67 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Children and Family
68 Services for the purpose of implementing this act during the
69 2005-2006 fiscal year.

70 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.