

HB 1275

2006
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CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Future of Florida's Families Committee recommends the
2 following:

Council/Committee Substitute

5 Remove the entire bill and insert:

6 A bill to be entitled

7 An act relating to adoption benefits; amending s. 110.152,
8 F.S.; defining the term "qualifying adoptive parent";
9 expanding the categories of persons who are eligible to be
10 qualifying adoptive parents; providing that a qualifying
11 adoptive parent who adopts a special-needs child or a
12 child whose permanent custody has been awarded to the
13 Department of Children and Family Services or to a
14 Florida-licensed child-placing agency, other than a
15 special-needs child, is eligible to receive a specified
16 monetary benefit that is paid to the adoptive parent in
17 equal monthly installments over a 1-year period; amending
18 s. 110.15201, F.S.; authorizing the Department of
19 Management Services to adopt rules to administer the
20 adoption benefits program; providing an effective date.

21
22 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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24 Section 1. Section 110.152, Florida Statutes, is amended
25 to read:

26 110.152 Adoption benefits for qualifying adoptive parents
27 ~~state employees~~; parental leave.--

28 (1) As used in this section, the term "qualifying adoptive
29 parent" means a full-time or part-time employee of:

30 (a) The state, including a full-time or part-time employee
31 of the State University System;

32 (b) Any community college in the state; or

33 (c) Any county school district in the state, including
34 teachers.

35 (2)~~(1)~~(a) Any qualifying adoptive parent ~~full-time or~~
36 ~~part-time employee of the state who is paid from regular salary~~
37 ~~appropriations and~~ who adopts a special-needs child, as defined
38 in paragraph (b), is eligible to receive a monetary benefit in
39 the amount of \$10,000 per child, which is payable in equal
40 monthly installments over a 1-year period. Any qualifying
41 adoptive parent ~~employee of the state~~ who adopts a child whose
42 permanent custody has been awarded to the Department of Children
43 and Family Services or to a Florida-licensed child-placing
44 agency, other than a special-needs child as defined in paragraph
45 (b), shall be eligible to receive a monetary benefit in the
46 amount of \$5,000 per child, which is payable in equal monthly
47 installments over a 1-year period. Benefits paid under this
48 subsection to a part-time employee must be prorated based on the
49 employee's full-time-equivalency status at the time of applying
50 for the benefits.

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

- 56 1. Eight years of age or older.
- 57 2. A person with a developmental disability.
- 58 3. A person with a physical or emotional handicap.
- 59 4. Of a minority race or of a racially mixed heritage.
- 60 5. A member of a sibling group of any age, provided that
61 two or more members of a sibling group remain together for the
62 purposes of adoption.

63 (3)-(2) A qualifying adoptive parent ~~An employee of the~~
64 ~~state~~ who adopts a special-needs child must apply to his or her
65 agency head to obtain the monetary benefit provided in
66 subsection (2) ~~(1)~~. Applications must be on forms approved by
67 the department and must include a certified copy of the final
68 order of adoption naming the applicant as the adoptive parent.

69 (4)-(3) Nothing in This section does not shall affect the
70 right of any qualifying adoptive parent ~~state employee~~ who
71 adopts a special-needs child to receive financial aid for
72 adoption expenses under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 409.166 or any other
73 statute that provides financial incentives for the adoption of
74 children.

75 (5)-(4) Any qualifying adoptive parent ~~employee of the~~
76 ~~state~~ who has a child placed in the custody of the adopting
77 parent ~~employee~~ for adoption, and who continues to reside in the
78 same household as the child placed for adoption, shall be

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79 | granted parental leave for a period not to exceed 6 months as
80 | provided in s. 110.221.

81 | Section 2. Section 110.15201, Florida Statutes, is amended
82 | to read:

83 | 110.15201 Adoption benefits for qualifying adoptive
84 | parents ~~state employees~~; rulemaking authority.--The Department
85 | of Management Services may adopt rules to administer the
86 | provisions of this act. The ~~Such~~ rules may provide for an
87 | application process such as, but not limited to, an open
88 | enrollment period during which qualifying adoptive parents
89 | ~~employees~~ may apply for monetary benefits as provided in s.
90 | 110.152 (2) ~~(1)~~.

91 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.