

By Senator Wilson

33-583-06

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to adoption benefits; amending

3 s. 110.152, F.S.; defining the term "qualifying

4 adoptive parent"; expanding the categories of

5 persons who are eligible to be qualifying

6 adoptive parents; providing that a qualifying

7 adoptive parent who adopts a special-needs

8 child is eligible to receive a specified

9 monetary benefit that is paid to the adoptive

10 parent in equal monthly installments over a

11 1-year period; amending s. 110.15201, F.S.;

12 authorizing the Department of Management

13 Services to adopt rules to administer the

14 adoption benefits program; providing an

15 effective date.

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

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19 Section 1. Section 110.152, Florida Statutes, is

20 amended to read:

21 110.152 Adoption benefits for qualifying adoptive

22 parents ~~state employees~~; parental leave.--

23 (1) As used in this section, the term "qualifying

24 adoptive parent" means a full-time or part-time employee of:

25 (a) The state, including a full-time or part-time

26 employee of the State University System;

27 (b) Any community college; and

28 (c) Any county school district, including teachers.

29 ~~(2)(1)(a) Any qualifying adoptive parent full-time or~~

30 ~~part-time employee of the state who is paid from regular~~

31 ~~salary appropriations and who adopts a special-needs child, as~~

1 defined in paragraph (b), is eligible to receive a monetary
2 benefit in the amount of \$10,000 per child, which is payable
3 in equal monthly installments over a 1-year period. Any
4 qualifying adoptive parent ~~employee of the state~~ who adopts a
5 child whose permanent custody has been awarded to the
6 Department of Children and Family Services or to a
7 Florida-licensed child-placing agency, other than a
8 special-needs child as defined in paragraph (b), shall be
9 eligible to receive a monetary benefit in the amount of \$5,000
10 per child, which is payable in equal monthly installments over
11 a 1-year period. Benefits paid under this subsection to a
12 part-time employee must be prorated based on the employee's
13 full-time-equivalency status at the time of applying for the
14 benefits.

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

- 20 1. Eight years of age or older.
- 21 2. A person with a developmental disability.
- 22 3. A person with a physical or emotional handicap.
- 23 4. Of a minority race or of a racially mixed heritage.
- 24 5. A member of a sibling group of any age, provided
25 that two or more members of a sibling group remain together
26 for the purposes of adoption.

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

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

9 (4) Any qualifying adoptive parent ~~employee of the~~
10 ~~state~~ who has a child placed in the custody of the adopting
11 parent ~~employee~~ for adoption, and who continues to reside in
12 the same household as the child placed for adoption, shall be
13 granted parental leave for a period not to exceed 6 months as
14 provided in s. 110.221.

15 Section 2. Section 110.15201, Florida Statutes, is
16 amended to read:

17 110.15201 Adoption benefits for state employees;
18 rulemaking authority.--The Department of Management Services
19 may adopt rules to administer the provisions of this act. The
20 ~~Such~~ rules may provide for an application process such as, but
21 not limited to, an open enrollment period during which
22 qualifying adoptive parents ~~employees~~ may apply for monetary
23 benefits as provided in s. 110.152(1).

24 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.
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SENATE SUMMARY

Defines the term "qualifying adoptive parent." Adds certain persons to those who are eligible to be qualifying adoptive parents. Provides that a qualifying adoptive parent who adopts a special-needs child is eligible to receive a specified monetary benefit that is paid to the adoptive parent in equal monthly installments over a 1-year period. Authorizes the Department of Management Services to adopt rules to administer the adoption benefits program.