



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

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

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

28 ~~(3)(2)~~ A qualifying adoptive parent ~~An employee of the~~  
29 ~~state~~ who adopts a special-needs child must apply to his or  
30 her agency head to obtain the monetary benefit provided in  
31 subsection ~~(2)(1)~~. Applications must be on forms approved by

1 the department and must include a certified copy of the final  
2 order of adoption naming the applicant as the adoptive parent.

3 ~~(4)(3) Nothing in~~ This section does not shall affect  
4 the 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 ~~(5)(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 qualifying adoptive  
18 parents ~~state employees~~; rulemaking authority.--The Department  
19 of Management Services may adopt rules to administer the  
20 provisions of this act. ~~The~~ Such rules may provide for an  
21 application process such as, but not limited to, an open  
22 enrollment period during which qualifying adoptive parents  
23 ~~employees~~ may apply for monetary benefits as provided in s.  
24 110.152(2) ~~s. 110.152(1)~~.

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

26  
27 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
28 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
29 Senate Bill 1896

30 The committee substitute specifies that for an employee to be  
31 a qualifying adoptive parent for purposes of adoption  
benefits, the community college or school district that  
employs the individual must be located in Florida.