By the Committee on Education; and Senators Wilson, Rich, Jones, Bennett, Hill, Smith, Peaden, Geller, Margolis, Lawson, Campbell, Bullard and Miller

581-2266-06

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.
16	
17	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
18	
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 in the state; and
28	(c) Any county school district in the state, including
29	teachers.
30	(2)(1)(a) Any qualifying adoptive parent full time or
31	part time employee of the state who is paid from regular

16 17

18

19

2021

22

23

24

25

2627

2.8

29

30

salary appropriations and who adopts a special-needs child, as 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 Department of Children and Family Services or to a 8 Florida-licensed child-placing agency, other than a 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 12 a 1-year period. Benefits paid under this subsection to a 13 part-time employee must be prorated based on the employee's full-time-equivalency status at the time of applying for the 14 benefits. 15

- (b) For purposes of this section, a "special-needs child" is a child whose permanent custody has been awarded to the Department of Children and Family Services or to a Florida-licensed child-placing agency and who is not likely to be adopted because he or she is:
 - 1. Eight years of age or older.
 - 2. A person with a developmental disability.
 - 3. A person with a physical or emotional handicap.
 - 4. Of a minority race or of a racially mixed heritage.
- 5. A member of a sibling group of any age, provided that two or more members of a sibling group remain together for the purposes of adoption.

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

the department and must include a certified copy of the final 2 order of adoption naming the applicant as the adoptive parent. (4)(3) Nothing in This section does not shall affect 3 4 the right of any qualifying adoptive parent state employee who adopts a special-needs child to receive financial aid for 5 6 adoption expenses under pursuant to s. 409.166 or any other statute that provides financial incentives for the adoption of 8 children. 9 (5)(4) Any qualifying adoptive parent employee of the state who has a child placed in the custody of the adopting 10 parent employee for adoption, and who continues to reside in 11 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 provided in s. 110.221. 14 Section 2. Section 110.15201, Florida Statutes, is 15 16 amended to read: 17 110.15201 Adoption benefits for qualifying adoptive 18 parents state employees; rulemaking authority. -- The Department of Management Services may adopt rules to administer the 19 provisions of this act. The Such rules may provide for an 20 application process such as, but not limited to, an open 2.1 22 enrollment period during which qualifying adoptive parents 23 employees may apply for monetary benefits as provided in s. 110.152(2) s. 110.152(1). 2.4 25 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006. 26 27 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR 2.8 Senate Bill 1896 29 The committee substitute specifies that for an employee to be 30 a qualifying adoptive parent for purposes of adoption

3

benefits, the community college or school district that employs the individual must be located in Florida.