

By Senator Bennett

21-298-06

1                                   A bill to be entitled

2                   An act relating to motor vehicle insurance for

3                   foster children; creating a pilot program for

4                   the purpose of reimbursing foster parents,

5                   residential facilities, or foster children who

6                   live independently for a portion of the

7                   increased costs of motor vehicle insurance for

8                   a foster child who has a driver's license;

9                   directing the Department of Children and Family

10                  Services to establish the pilot program in

11                  Sarasota, DeSoto, Manatee, Pinellas, and Pasco

12                  Counties; requiring that the person who incurs

13                  the increased cost submit to the department

14                  documentation of that increase; requiring that

15                  foster children be encouraged to pay the

16                  remaining portion of the increase in costs;

17                  directing the department to develop procedures

18                  for operating the pilot program; requiring the

19                  department to submit a report with

20                  recommendations to the Governor and the

21                  Legislature by a specified date; providing an

22                  appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

26                   Section 1. ~~(1)~~ The Legislature finds that the

27 increased cost of motor vehicle insurance for a foster child

28 after that child attains a driver's license is borne by the

29 foster parents and the authorized representative of the

30 residential facility. This increase in the cost of insurance

31 creates an additional barrier for a foster child in gaining

1 independence and may limit the child's opportunities for  
2 obtaining employment. In accordance with these findings, the  
3 Department of Children and Family Services shall establish a  
4 3-year pilot program in Sarasota, Desoto, Manatee, Pinellas,  
5 and Pasco Counties to pay a portion of the cost of motor  
6 vehicle insurance for foster children who have obtained a  
7 driver's license.

8       (2) To the extent that funding is available, the pilot  
9 program shall provide funds to pay for a portion of the  
10 increase in the cost of motor vehicle insurance incurred by  
11 the foster parents, residential facilities, or the foster  
12 child if living independently. To be eligible for payment  
13 under the pilot program, the person incurring the cost must  
14 submit to the department appropriate documentation  
15 demonstrating the increase in the cost of insurance. The  
16 amount of the payment provided to the foster parent,  
17 residential facility, or foster child if living independently  
18 shall be one-half of the amount of the increase in the cost of  
19 motor vehicle insurance which is incurred as a result of  
20 adding the foster child to the policy or less than one-half if  
21 another source of funding is available to pay for the  
22 increase. The foster child must be encouraged to pay the other  
23 half of the increase in insurance costs.

24       (3) The department shall develop procedures for  
25 operating the pilot program, including, but not limited to,  
26 determining eligibility, providing the payment, ensuring that  
27 payment is limited solely to the additional costs of including  
28 the foster child in the insurance policy, and allocating  
29 available funds.

30       (4) The department shall examine and use, to the  
31 extent possible, other available options for funding the cost

1 of the motor vehicle insurance increase, such as, but not  
2 limited to, through the child's master trust fund, social  
3 security income, child support payments, and other income  
4 available to the child.

5 (5) Beginning January 1, 2007, and continuing for the  
6 duration of the pilot program, the department shall submit to  
7 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of  
8 the House of Representatives an annual report on the success  
9 and outcomes achieved by the pilot program, with a  
10 recommendation as to whether the pilot program should be  
11 continued, terminated, or expanded.

12 Section 2. The sum of \$50,000 is appropriated from the  
13 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Children and Family  
14 Services for the purpose of implementing this act during the  
15 2006-2007 fiscal year.

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

17  
18 \*\*\*\*\*

19 SENATE SUMMARY

20 Establishes a pilot program to reimburse foster parents,  
21 residential facilities, or foster children who live  
22 independently for a portion of the increased costs of  
23 motor vehicle insurance. Requires that the Department of  
24 Children and Family Services establish the pilot program  
25 in Sarasota, DeSoto, Manatee, Pinellas, and Pasco  
26 Counties. Provides requirements for submitting  
27 documentation to the department. Requires that the  
28 department develop procedures for operating the pilot  
29 program. Requires a report to the Governor and  
30 Legislature.  
31