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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to motor vehicle insurance for foster children; creating a pilot program to reimburse foster parents, residential facilities, or foster children who live independently a portion of the increased costs of motor vehicle insurance for a foster child who has a driver's license; directing the Department of Children and Family Services to establish the pilot program in Sarasota, DeSoto, Manatee, Pinellas, and Pasco Counties; requiring that the person who incurs the increased cost submit to the department documentation of that increase; requiring that foster children be encouraged to pay the remaining portion of the increase in cost; directing the department to develop procedures for operating the pilot program; requiring the department to submit a report with recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date each year of the pilot program; providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds that the increased cost of motor vehicle insurance for a foster child after that child attains a driver's license is borne by the foster parents, the authorized representative of the residential facility, or the foster child if living independently. This increase in the cost of insurance creates an additional barrier for a foster child in gaining independence and may limit the child's

29 opportunities for obtaining employment. In accordance with these
30 findings, the Department of Children and Family Services shall
31 establish a 3-year pilot program in Sarasota, Desoto, Manatee,
32 Pinellas, and Pasco Counties to pay a portion of the cost of
33 motor vehicle insurance for foster children who have obtained a
34 driver's license.

35 (2) To the extent that funding is available, the pilot
36 program shall provide funds to pay for a portion of the increase
37 in the cost of motor vehicle insurance incurred by foster
38 parents, residential facilities, and foster children living
39 independently. To be eligible for payment under the pilot
40 program, the person incurring the cost must submit to the
41 department appropriate documentation demonstrating the increase
42 in the cost of insurance. The amount of the payment provided to
43 the foster parent, residential facility, or foster child living
44 independently shall be one-half of the amount of the increase in
45 the cost of motor vehicle insurance which is incurred as a
46 result of adding the foster child to the policy or less than
47 one-half if another source of funding is available to pay for
48 the increase. The foster child must be encouraged to pay the
49 other half of the increase in insurance costs.

50 (3) The department shall develop procedures for operating
51 the pilot program, including, but not limited to, determining
52 eligibility, providing the payment, ensuring that payment is
53 limited solely to the additional cost of including the foster
54 child in the insurance policy, and allocating available funds.

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

57 motor vehicle insurance increase, such as, but not limited to,
58 through the child's master trust fund, social security income,
59 child support payments, and other income available to the child.

60 (5) Beginning January 1, 2007, and continuing for the
61 duration of the pilot program, the department shall submit to
62 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of
63 the House of Representatives an annual report on the success and
64 outcomes achieved by the pilot program, with a recommendation as
65 to whether the pilot program should be continued, terminated, or
66 expanded.

67 Section 2. The sum of \$50,000 is appropriated from the
68 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Children and Family
69 Services for the purpose of implementing this act during the
70 2006-2007 fiscal year.

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