

CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Future of Florida's Families Committee recommends the
2 following:

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4 **Council/Committee Substitute**

5 Remove the entire bill and insert:

6 A bill to be entitled

7 An act relating to motor vehicle insurance for foster
8 children; creating a pilot program to reimburse foster
9 parents, residential facilities, or foster children who
10 live independently a portion of the increased costs of
11 motor vehicle insurance for a foster child who has a
12 driver's license; directing the Department of Children and
13 Family Services to establish the pilot program in
14 Sarasota, DeSoto, Manatee, Pinellas, and Pasco Counties;
15 requiring that the person who incurs the increased cost
16 submit to the department documentation of that increase;
17 requiring that foster children be encouraged to pay the
18 remaining portion of the increase in cost; directing the
19 department to develop procedures for operating the pilot
20 program; requiring the department to submit a report with
21 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature by a
22 specified date each year of the pilot program; providing

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23 an appropriation; providing for apportionment of the
24 appropriation; providing an effective date.

25
26 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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28 Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds that the increased
29 cost of motor vehicle insurance for a foster child after that
30 child obtains a driver's license is borne by the foster parents,
31 the authorized representative of the residential facility, or
32 the foster child if living independently. This increase in the
33 cost of insurance creates an additional barrier for a foster
34 child in gaining independence and may limit the child's
35 opportunities for obtaining employment. In accordance with these
36 findings, the Department of Children and Family Services shall
37 establish a 3-year pilot program in Sarasota, Desoto, Manatee,
38 Pinellas, and Pasco Counties to pay a portion of the cost of
39 motor vehicle insurance for foster children who have obtained a
40 driver's license.

41 (2) To the extent that funding is available, the pilot
42 program shall provide funds to pay for a portion of the increase
43 in the cost of motor vehicle insurance incurred by foster
44 parents, residential facilities, and foster children living
45 independently. To be eligible for payment under the pilot
46 program, the person incurring the cost must submit to the
47 department appropriate documentation demonstrating the increase
48 in the cost of insurance. The amount of the payment provided to
49 the foster parent, residential facility, or foster child living
50 independently shall be one-half of the amount of the increase in

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51 | the cost of motor vehicle insurance which is incurred as a
52 | result of adding the foster child to the policy or less than
53 | one-half if another source of funding is available to pay for
54 | the increase. The foster child must be encouraged to pay the
55 | other half of the increase in insurance costs.

56 | (3) The department shall develop procedures for operating
57 | the pilot program, including, but not limited to, determining
58 | eligibility, providing the payment, ensuring that payment is
59 | limited solely to the additional cost of including the foster
60 | child in the insurance policy, and ensuring that the payments
61 | are made to eligible persons in the order each person is
62 | determined eligible until the funds are exhausted.

63 | (4) The department shall examine and use, to the extent
64 | possible, other available options for funding the cost of the
65 | motor vehicle insurance increase, such as, but not limited to,
66 | through the child's master trust fund, social security income,
67 | child support payments, and other income available to the child.

68 | (5) Beginning January 1, 2007, and continuing for the
69 | duration of the pilot program, the department shall submit to
70 | the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of
71 | the House of Representatives an annual report on the success and
72 | outcomes achieved by the pilot program, with a recommendation as
73 | to whether the pilot program should be continued, terminated, or
74 | expanded.

75 | Section 2. The sum of \$150,000 is appropriated from the
76 | General Revenue Fund to the Department of Children and Family
77 | Services for the purpose of implementing this act during the
78 | 2006-2007 fiscal year. This sum shall be apportioned as follows:

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79 | \$110,000 to be divided between Pinellas and Pasco Counties and
80 | \$40,000 to be divided among Manatee, Sarasota, and Desoto
81 | Counties.

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