

1 A bill to be entitled

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

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

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23 Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds that the increased
24 cost of motor vehicle insurance for a foster child after that
25 child obtains a driver's license is borne by the foster parents,
26 the authorized representative of the residential facility, or
27 the foster child if living independently. This increase in the

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

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

51 (3) The department shall develop procedures for operating
52 the pilot program, including, but not limited to, determining
53 eligibility, providing the payment, ensuring that payment is
54 limited solely to the additional cost of including the foster

55 child in the insurance policy, and ensuring that the payments
56 are made to eligible persons in the order each person is
57 determined eligible until the funds are exhausted.

58 (4) The department shall examine and use, to the extent
59 possible, other available options for funding the cost of the
60 motor vehicle insurance increase, such as, but not limited to,
61 through the child's master trust fund, social security income,
62 child support payments, and other income available to the child.

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

70 Section 2. The sum of \$150,000 is appropriated from the
71 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Children and Family
72 Services for the purpose of implementing this act during the
73 2006-2007 fiscal year. This sum shall be apportioned as follows:
74 \$110,000 to be divided between Pinellas and Pasco Counties and
75 \$40,000 to be divided among Manatee, Sarasota, and Desoto
76 Counties.

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