

Bill No. SB 362

Barcode 441116

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31

Comm: FAV  
03/14/2007 04:22 PM

.  
. .  
. .  
. .  
. .  
. .

---

The Committee on Governmental Operations (Wilson) recommended  
the following amendment:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause

and insert:

Section 1. Section 409.1663, Florida Statutes, is  
created to read:

409.1663 Adoption benefits for qualifying adoptive  
employees of state agencies.--

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Department" means the Department of Children and  
Family Services.

(b) "Licensed child-placing agency" has the same  
meaning as in s. 39.01.

(c) "Qualifying adoptive employee" means a full-time  
or part-time employee of a state agency who is paid from  
regular salary appropriations or who otherwise meets the  
employer's definition of a regular rather than temporary  
employee and who adopts a child pursuant to this section. For

Bill No. SB 362

Barcode 441116

1 purposes of this section, the term includes instructional  
2 personnel, as defined in s. 1012.01, employed by the Florida  
3 School for the Deaf and the Blind.

4 (d) "Special needs child" has the same meaning as in  
5 s. 409.166.

6 (e) "State agency" means a branch, department, or  
7 agency of state government for which the Chief Financial  
8 Officer processes payroll requisitions, a state university or  
9 community college as defined in s. 1000.21, a school district  
10 unit as defined in s. 1001.30, or a water management district  
11 as defined in s. 373.019.

12 (2) A qualifying adoptive employee who adopts a  
13 special needs child shall be eligible to receive a lump-sum  
14 monetary benefit in the amount of \$10,000 per child subject to  
15 applicable taxes. Any qualifying adoptive employee who adopts  
16 a child whose permanent custody has been awarded to the  
17 department or to a licensed child-placing agency, other than a  
18 special needs child, shall be eligible to receive a lump-sum  
19 monetary benefit in the amount of \$5,000 per child subject to  
20 applicable taxes.

21 (a) Benefits paid to a part-time employee must be  
22 prorated based on the employee's full-time-equivalency status  
23 at the time of applying for the benefits.

24 (b) Monetary benefits are limited to one award per  
25 child adopted regardless of the number of adoptive parents or  
26 an employee's change of employer.

27 (c) The payment of a lump-sum monetary benefit for  
28 adopting a child under this section is subject to a specific  
29 appropriation to the department for such purpose.

30 (3) A qualifying adoptive employee must apply to his  
31 or her agency head to obtain the monetary benefit provided in

Bill No. SB 362

Barcode 441116

1 subsection (2). Applications must be on forms approved by the  
2 department and must include a certified copy of the final  
3 order of adoption naming the applicant as the adoptive parent.

4 (4) This section does not affect the right of any  
5 qualifying adoptive employee who adopts a special needs child  
6 to receive adoption assistance under s. 409.166 or any other  
7 statute that provides financial incentives for the adoption of  
8 children.

9 (5) Parental leave for qualifying adoptive employees  
10 must be provided in accordance with the personnel policies and  
11 procedures of the respective state agency employer.

12 (6) The department shall adopt rules to administer  
13 this section. The rules may provide for an application process  
14 such as, but not limited to, an open enrollment period during  
15 which qualifying adoptive parents may apply for monetary  
16 benefits under this section.

17 (7) A monetary benefit paid to a qualifying adoptive  
18 employee employed in a state agency for which the Chief  
19 Financial Officer processes payroll requisitions shall be  
20 disbursed by the Chief Financial Office upon submission of a  
21 payroll requisition by the department. The Chief Financial  
22 Officer shall transfer funds from the department to a state  
23 university, community college, school district unit, or water  
24 management district to enable payment to the respective  
25 qualifying adoptive employee through the respective payroll  
26 systems as long as funds are available for such purpose.

27 (8) Each state agency shall develop a uniform  
28 procedure for informing employees about this benefit and for  
29 assisting the department in making eligibility determinations  
30 and processing applications. Any procedure adopted by a state  
31 agency is valid and enforceable so long as it does not

Bill No. SB 362

Barcode 441116

1 conflict with the express terms of this section.

2           Section 2. Participation by employees of a state  
3 university, community college, or school district unit as  
4 provided in this act shall commence with the 2008 open  
5 enrollment period for adoption benefits to be funded in the  
6 2008-2009 fiscal year.

7           Section 3. Sections 110.152, 110.15201,  
8 215.32(2)(c)5., and 373.6065, Florida Statutes, are repealed.

9           Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

10

11

12 ===== T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T =====

13 And the title is amended as follows:

14           Delete everything before the enacting clause

15

16 and insert:

17

                  A bill to be entitled

18

          An act relating to adoption benefits; creating  
19           s. 409.1663, F.S.; expanding a monetary benefit  
20           paid to employees who adopt special needs  
21           children and children in the custody of the  
22           state to include employees of state  
23           universities, community colleges, and school  
24           districts; clarifying that the availability of  
25           the monetary benefit is subject to an  
26           appropriation; authorizing the Department of  
27           Children and Family Services to administer the  
28           program; providing for rules; providing for  
29           parental leave; providing for application and  
30           eligibility procedures; providing for the  
31           transfer of funding from the department to

Bill No. SB 362

Barcode 441116

1 nonstate public entities; providing that  
2 application for the monetary benefit will begin  
3 with the 2008 open enrollment period and the  
4 availability of the benefit will begin in the  
5 2008-2009 fiscal year; repealing ss. 110.152,  
6 110.15201, 215.32(2)(c)5., and 373.6065, F.S.,  
7 relating to the present program that provides a  
8 monetary benefit only to state agency employees  
9 and employees of a water management district  
10 and that is administered by the Department of  
11 Management Services; providing an effective  
12 date.

13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31