

HB 745

2007

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 DeSoto,  
9           Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, and Sarasota  
10          Counties; requiring that the person who incurs the  
11          increased cost submit to the department documentation of  
12          that increase; requiring that foster children be  
13          encouraged to pay the remaining portion of the increase in  
14          cost; directing the department to develop procedures for  
15          operating the pilot program; requiring the department to  
16          submit a report with recommendations to the Governor and  
17          the Legislature by a specified date each year of the pilot  
18          program; providing an appropriation; providing for  
19          apportionment of the appropriation; providing an effective  
20          date.

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

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

HB 745

2007

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

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

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

57 are made to eligible persons in the order each person is  
58 determined eligible until the funds are exhausted.

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

64 (5) Beginning January 1, 2008, and continuing for the  
65 duration of the pilot program, the department shall submit to  
66 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of  
67 the House of Representatives an annual report on the success and  
68 outcomes achieved by the pilot program, with a recommendation as  
69 to whether the pilot program should be continued, terminated, or  
70 expanded.

71 Section 2. The sum of \$150,000 is appropriated from the  
72 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Children and Family  
73 Services for the purpose of implementing this act during the  
74 2007-2008 fiscal year. This sum shall be apportioned as follows:  
75 \$110,000 to be divided between Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas  
76 Counties and \$40,000 to be divided among Desoto, Manatee, and  
77 Sarasota Counties.

78 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.