

CS/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 a contingent effective date.

19  
20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

21  
22 Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds that the increased  
23 cost of motor vehicle insurance for a foster child after that  
24 child obtains a driver's license is borne by the foster parents,  
25 the authorized representative of the residential facility, or  
26 the foster child if living independently. This increase in the  
27 cost of insurance creates an additional barrier for a foster  
28 child in gaining independence and may limit the child's

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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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 Desoto, Hillsborough,  
32 Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, and Sarasota Counties to pay a portion  
33 of the cost of motor vehicle insurance for foster children who  
34 have obtained a 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 ensuring that the payments  
55 are made to eligible persons in the order each person is  
56 determined eligible until the funds are exhausted.

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

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

69        Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007, only  
70 if a specific appropriation to fund the provisions of this act  
71 is made in the General Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2007-  
72 2008.