

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to adoption benefits; amending s. 110.152,
 3 F.S.; defining the term "qualifying adoptive parent";
 4 expanding the categories of persons who are eligible to be
 5 qualifying adoptive parents; providing that a qualifying
 6 adoptive parent who adopts a special-needs child is
 7 eligible to receive a specified monetary benefit that is
 8 paid to the adoptive parent in equal monthly installments
 9 over a 1-year period; amending s. 110.15201, F.S.;
 10 authorizing the Department of Management Services to adopt
 11 rules to administer the adoption benefits program;
 12 providing an effective date.

13
 14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 16 Section 1. Section 110.152, Florida Statutes, is amended
 17 to read:

18 110.152 Adoption benefits for qualifying adoptive parents
 19 ~~state employees~~; parental leave.--

20 (1) As used in this section, the term "qualifying adoptive
 21 parent" means a full-time or part-time employee of:

22 (a) The state, including a full-time or part-time employee
 23 of the State University System;

24 (b) Any community college in the state; or

25 (c) Any county school district in the state, including
 26 teachers.

27 (2) ~~(1)~~ (a) Any qualifying adoptive parent ~~full-time or~~
 28 ~~part time employee of the state who is paid from regular salary~~

HB 803

2007

29 ~~appropriations and~~ who adopts a special-needs child, as defined
30 in paragraph (b), is eligible to receive a monetary benefit in
31 the amount of \$10,000 per child, which is payable in equal
32 monthly installments over a 1-year period. Any qualifying
33 adoptive parent ~~employee of the state~~ who adopts a child whose
34 permanent custody has been awarded to the Department of Children
35 and Family Services or to a Florida-licensed child-placing
36 agency, other than a special-needs child as defined in paragraph
37 (b), shall be eligible to receive a monetary benefit in the
38 amount of \$5,000 per child, which is payable in equal monthly
39 installments over a 1-year period. Benefits paid under this
40 subsection to a part-time employee must be prorated based on the
41 employee's full-time-equivalency status at the time of applying
42 for the benefits.

43 (b) For purposes of this section, a "special-needs child"
44 is a child whose permanent custody has been awarded to the
45 Department of Children and Family Services or to a Florida-
46 licensed child-placing agency and who is not likely to be
47 adopted because he or she is:

- 48 1. Eight years of age or older.
- 49 2. A person with a developmental disability.
- 50 3. A person with a physical or emotional handicap.
- 51 4. Of a minority race or of a racially mixed heritage.
- 52 5. A member of a sibling group of any age, provided that
53 two or more members of a sibling group remain together for the
54 purposes of adoption.

55 (3)-(2) A qualifying adoptive parent ~~An employee of the~~
56 ~~state~~ who adopts a special-needs child must apply to his or her

HB 803

2007

57 agency head to obtain the monetary benefit provided in
58 subsection (2) ~~(1)~~. Applications must be on forms approved by
59 the department and must include a certified copy of the final
60 order of adoption naming the applicant as the adoptive parent.

61 ~~(4)(3)~~ ~~Nothing in~~ This section does not ~~shall~~ affect the
62 right of any qualifying adoptive parent ~~state employee~~ who
63 adopts a special-needs child to receive financial aid for
64 adoption expenses under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 409.166 or any other
65 statute that provides financial incentives for the adoption of
66 children.

67 ~~(5)(4)~~ Any qualifying adoptive parent ~~employee of the~~
68 ~~state~~ who has a child placed in the custody of the adopting
69 parent ~~employee~~ for adoption, and who continues to reside in the
70 same household as the child placed for adoption, shall be
71 granted parental leave for a period not to exceed 6 months as
72 provided in s. 110.221.

73 Section 2. Section 110.15201, Florida Statutes, is amended
74 to read:

75 110.15201 Adoption benefits for qualifying adoptive
76 parents ~~state employees~~; rulemaking authority.--The Department
77 of Management Services may adopt rules to administer the
78 provisions of this act. The ~~Such~~ rules may provide for an
79 application process such as, but not limited to, an open
80 enrollment period during which qualifying adoptive parents
81 ~~employees~~ may apply for monetary benefits as provided in s.
82 110.152(2) ~~s. 110.152(1)~~.

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