

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to adoption benefits; creating s.  
3           409.1663, F.S.; providing definitions; expanding a  
4           monetary benefit paid to employees who adopt special needs  
5           children and children in the custody of the state to  
6           include employees of state universities, community  
7           colleges, and school districts; clarifying that the  
8           availability of the monetary benefit is subject to an  
9           appropriation; authorizing the Department of Children and  
10          Family Services to administer the program; providing for  
11          rules; providing for parental leave; providing for  
12          application and eligibility procedures; providing for the  
13          transfer of funding from the department to nonstate public  
14          entities; providing that application for the monetary  
15          benefit will begin with the 2008 open enrollment period  
16          and the availability of the benefit will begin in the  
17          2008-2009 fiscal year; repealing ss. 110.152, 110.15201,  
18          215.32(2)(c)5., and 373.6065, F.S., relating to the  
19          present program that provides a monetary benefit only to  
20          state agency employees and employees of a water management  
21          district and that is administered by the Department of  
22          Management Services; transferring resources allocated to  
23          provide adoption benefits for state employees from the  
24          Department of Management Services to the Department of  
25          Children and Family Services by a type two transfer;  
26          providing an effective date.

27  
28   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56

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

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

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

(2) A qualifying adoptive employee who adopts a special needs child shall be eligible to receive a lump-sum monetary

57 benefit in the amount of \$10,000 per child subject to applicable  
58 taxes. Any qualifying adoptive employee who adopts a child whose  
59 permanent custody has been awarded to the department or to a  
60 licensed child-placing agency, other than a special needs child,  
61 shall be eligible to receive a lump-sum monetary benefit in the  
62 amount of \$5,000 per child subject to applicable taxes.

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

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

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

72 (3) A qualifying adoptive employee must apply to his or  
73 her agency head to obtain the monetary benefit provided in  
74 subsection (2). Applications must be on forms approved by the  
75 department and must include a certified copy of the final order  
76 of adoption naming the applicant as the adoptive parent.

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

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

85       (6) The department shall adopt rules to administer this  
86 section. The rules may provide for an application process such  
87 as, but not limited to, an open enrollment period during which  
88 qualifying adoptive parents may apply for monetary benefits  
89 under this section.

90       (7) A monetary benefit paid to a qualifying adoptive  
91 employee employed in a state agency for which the Chief  
92 Financial Officer processes payroll requisitions shall be  
93 disbursed by the Chief Financial Office upon submission of a  
94 payroll requisition by the department. The Chief Financial  
95 Officer shall transfer funds from the department to a state  
96 university, community college, school district unit, or water  
97 management district to enable payment to the respective  
98 qualifying adoptive employee through the respective payroll  
99 systems as long as funds are available for such purpose.

100       (8) Each state agency shall develop a uniform procedure  
101 for informing employees about this benefit and for assisting the  
102 department in making eligibility determinations and processing  
103 applications. Any procedure adopted by a state agency is valid  
104 and enforceable so long as it does not conflict with the express  
105 terms of this section.

106       Section 2. Participation by employees of a state  
107 university, community college, or school district unit as  
108 provided in this act shall commence with the 2008 open  
109 enrollment period for adoption benefits to be funded in the  
110 2008-2009 fiscal year.

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

CS/HB 803

2007

113           Section 4. The resources provided to the Department of  
114 Management Services for the adoption benefits for state  
115 employees originally enacted in section 110.152, Florida  
116 Statutes, are transferred to the Department of Children and  
117 Family Services by a type two transfer pursuant to section  
118 20.06(2), Florida Statutes.

119           Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.