

By Senator Wilson

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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 for 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 Miami-
9 Dade County; providing that the person who incurs the
10 increased cost must submit to the department documentation
11 of that increase; requiring that foster children be
12 encouraged to pay the remaining portion of the increase in
13 costs; directing the department to develop procedures for
14 operating the pilot program; requiring the department to
15 submit a report with recommendations to the Governor and
16 the Legislature by a specified date; providing an
17 effective date.

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

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

28 (2) The Department of Children and Family Services shall
29 establish a 3-year pilot program in Miami-Dade County to pay a

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30 portion of the cost of motor vehicle insurance for foster
31 children who have obtained a driver's license. To the extent that
32 funding is available, the pilot program shall provide funds to
33 pay a portion of the increase in the cost of such insurance. To
34 be eligible for payment under the program, the person incurring
35 the cost must submit to the department appropriate documentation
36 demonstrating the increase in the cost of insurance. The amount
37 of the payment provided to the foster parent, residential
38 facility, or foster child if living independently shall be one-
39 half of the amount of the increase in the cost of motor vehicle
40 insurance which is incurred by adding the foster child to the
41 policy or less than one-half if another source of funding is
42 available to pay for the increase. The foster child must be
43 encouraged to pay the other half of the increase in insurance
44 costs.

45 (3) The department shall develop operating procedures for
46 the pilot program, including, but not limited to, procedures for
47 determining eligibility, providing the payment, ensuring that the
48 payment is limited solely to the additional costs of including
49 the foster child in the insurance coverage, and allocating
50 available funds.

51 (4) The department shall examine and use, to the extent
52 possible, other available options for funding the increase in the
53 cost of motor vehicle insurance, such as, but not limited to, the
54 child's master trust fund, social security income, child support
55 payments, and other income available to the child.

56 (5) Beginning January 1, 2009, and continuing for the
57 duration of the pilot program, the department shall submit to the
58 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the

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59 House of Representatives an annual report on the results and
60 outcomes achieved by the pilot program, with a recommendation as
61 to whether the program should be continued, terminated, or
62 expanded.

63 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.