

By the Committee on Fiscal Policy; and Senators Gaetz and Clemens

594-01953-15

2015320c1

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to adoption and foster care; amending  
3       s. 39.0016, F.S.; revising what the Department of  
4       Children and Families must do when required to enter  
5       into agreements with specified entities; amending s.  
6       39.812, F.S.; requiring the community-based care lead  
7       agency to visit in person or contact by telephone the  
8       child and the child's adoptive family 1 year after the  
9       date the adoption is finalized; requiring the agency  
10      to document specified information; requiring the  
11      agency to submit a report annually to the department;  
12      amending s. 409.145, F.S.; revising caregiver roles  
13      and responsibilities; revising the roles and  
14      responsibilities of the department, the community-  
15      based care lead agency, and other agency staff;  
16      creating s. 409.1662, F.S.; providing the purpose of  
17      the adoption incentive program; directing the  
18      Department of Children and Families to establish an  
19      adoption incentive program for certain agencies and  
20      subcontractors; requiring that the department conduct  
21      a comprehensive baseline assessment of lead agencies  
22      and provider performance and compile annual data for  
23      the most recent 5 years of available data; requiring  
24      the department to update the assessment annually;  
25      providing a nonexclusive list of factors for the  
26      assessment to identify; requiring that the department  
27      negotiate outcome-based agreements; requiring that  
28      several factors be included in the agreements;  
29      requiring the department to allocate incentive

594-01953-15

2015320c1

30 payments; requiring the department to report annually  
31 by a certain date specified information to the  
32 Governor and the Legislature; creating s. 409.1664,  
33 F.S.; defining terms; providing certain amounts  
34 payable to a qualifying adoptive employee who adopts  
35 specified children under certain circumstances,  
36 subject to applicable taxes; providing prorated  
37 payments for a part-time employee and limiting the  
38 monetary benefit to one award per child; requiring  
39 that a qualifying adoptive employee apply to the  
40 agency head for the monetary benefit on forms approved  
41 by the department and include a certified copy of the  
42 final order of adoption; providing that the rights  
43 offered by this act do not preclude a qualifying  
44 adoptive employee who adopts a special needs child  
45 from receiving any other assistance or incentive;  
46 requiring that parental leave for qualifying adoptive  
47 employees be provided; requiring the department to  
48 adopt rules; requiring the Chief Financial Officer to  
49 submit payment to a qualifying adoptive employee  
50 depending on where he or she works; requiring state  
51 agencies to develop uniform procedures for informing  
52 employees about this benefit and for assisting the  
53 department in making eligibility determinations and  
54 processing applications; creating s. 409.1666, F.S.;  
55 requiring the Governor to annually select and  
56 recognize certain individuals, families, or  
57 organizations for adoption achievement awards;  
58 requiring the department to define categories for the

594-01953-15

2015320c1

59 achievement awards and seek nominations for potential  
60 recipients; authorizing a direct-support organization  
61 established by the Office of Adoption and Child  
62 Protection to accept donations of products or services  
63 from private sources to be given to the recipients of  
64 the adoption achievement awards; amending s. 409.175,  
65 F.S.; requiring licensed child-placing agencies  
66 providing adoption services for intercountry adoptions  
67 to meet specified requirements; requiring an adoption  
68 agency in this state which provides certain services  
69 to maintain records with specified information;  
70 providing appropriations; providing an effective date.

71  
72 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

73  
74 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section  
75 39.0016, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

76 39.0016 Education of abused, neglected, and abandoned  
77 children; agency agreements; children having or suspected of  
78 having a disability.—

79 (2) AGENCY AGREEMENTS.—

80 (b) The department shall enter into agreements with  
81 district school boards or other local educational entities  
82 regarding education and related services for children known to  
83 the department who are of school age and children known to the  
84 department who are younger than school age but who would  
85 otherwise qualify for services from the district school board.  
86 Such agreements shall include, but are not limited to:

87 1. A requirement that the department shall:

594-01953-15

2015320c1

88 a. Ensure ~~Enroll~~ children known to the department are  
89 enrolled in school or in the best educational setting that meets  
90 the needs of the child. The agreement shall provide for  
91 continuing the enrollment of a child known to the department at  
92 the ~~same~~ school of origin when, if possible if it is in the best  
93 interest of the child, with the goal of minimal ~~avoiding~~  
94 disruption of education.

95 b. Notify the school and school district in which a child  
96 known to the department is enrolled of the name and phone number  
97 of the child known to the department caregiver and caseworker  
98 for child safety purposes.

99 c. Establish a protocol for the department to share  
100 information about a child known to the department with the  
101 school district, consistent with the Family Educational Rights  
102 and Privacy Act, since the sharing of information will assist  
103 each agency in obtaining education and related services for the  
104 benefit of the child. The protocol must require the district  
105 school boards or other local educational entities to access the  
106 department's Florida Safe Families Network to obtain information  
107 about children known to the department, consistent with the  
108 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. s.  
109 1232g.

110 d. Notify the school district of the department's case  
111 planning for a child known to the department, both at the time  
112 of plan development and plan review. Within the plan development  
113 or review process, the school district may provide information  
114 regarding the child known to the department if the school  
115 district deems it desirable and appropriate.

116 e. Show no prejudice against out-of-home caregivers who

594-01953-15

2015320c1

117 desire to educate at home any children placed in their home  
118 through the child welfare system.

119 2. A requirement that the district school board shall:

120 a. Provide the department with a general listing of the  
121 services and information available from the district school  
122 board to facilitate educational access for a child known to the  
123 department.

124 b. Identify all educational and other services provided by  
125 the school and school district which the school district  
126 believes are reasonably necessary to meet the educational needs  
127 of a child known to the department.

128 c. Determine whether transportation is available for a  
129 child known to the department when such transportation will  
130 avoid a change in school assignment due to a change in  
131 residential placement. Recognizing that continued enrollment in  
132 the same school throughout the time the child known to the  
133 department is in out-of-home care is preferable unless  
134 enrollment in the same school would be unsafe or otherwise  
135 impractical, the department, the district school board, and the  
136 Department of Education shall assess the availability of  
137 federal, charitable, or grant funding for such transportation.

138 d. Provide individualized student intervention or an  
139 individual educational plan when a determination has been made  
140 through legally appropriate criteria that intervention services  
141 are required. The intervention or individual educational plan  
142 must include strategies to enable the child known to the  
143 department to maximize the attainment of educational goals.

144 3. A requirement that the department and the district  
145 school board shall cooperate in accessing the services and

594-01953-15

2015320c1

146 supports needed for a child known to the department who has or  
147 is suspected of having a disability to receive an appropriate  
148 education consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities  
149 Education Act and state implementing laws, rules, and  
150 assurances. Coordination of services for a child known to the  
151 department who has or is suspected of having a disability may  
152 include:

153 a. Referral for screening.

154 b. Sharing of evaluations between the school district and  
155 the department where appropriate.

156 c. Provision of education and related services appropriate  
157 for the needs and abilities of the child known to the  
158 department.

159 d. Coordination of services and plans between the school  
160 and the residential setting to avoid duplication or conflicting  
161 service plans.

162 e. Appointment of a surrogate parent, consistent with the  
163 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and pursuant to  
164 subsection (3), for educational purposes for a child known to  
165 the department who qualifies.

166 f. For each child known to the department 14 years of age  
167 and older, transition planning by the department and all  
168 providers, including the department's independent living program  
169 staff, to meet the requirements of the local school district for  
170 educational purposes.

171 Section 2. Subsection (6) is added to section 39.812,  
172 Florida Statutes, to read:

173 39.812 Postdisposition relief; petition for adoption.—

174 (6) (a) Once a child's adoption is finalized, the community-

594-01953-15

2015320c1

175 based care lead agency is required to make a reasonable effort  
176 to make contact with the adoptive family either in person or by  
177 telephone 1 year after the date of finalization of the adoption  
178 as a post-adoption service. If the family has relocated to  
179 another state, the required contact may occur by telephone. For  
180 the purposes of this subsection, the term "reasonable effort"  
181 means the exercise of reasonable diligence and care by the  
182 community-based care lead agency to make contact with the  
183 adoptive family. At a minimum, the community-based care lead  
184 agency must document the following:

185 1. The number of attempts made by the community-based care  
186 lead agency to contact the adoptive family and whether those  
187 attempts were successful;

188 2. The types of post-adoption services that were requested  
189 by the adoptive family and whether those services were provided  
190 by the community-based care lead agency; and

191 3. Any feedback received by the community-based care lead  
192 agency from the adoptive family related to the quality or  
193 effectiveness of services provided; and

194 (b) The community-based care lead agency must annually  
195 report to the department on the outcomes achieved and  
196 recommendations for improvement under this subsection.

197 Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 409.145, Florida  
198 Statutes, is amended to read:

199 409.145 Care of children; quality parenting; "reasonable  
200 and prudent parent" standard.—The child welfare system of the  
201 department shall operate as a coordinated community-based system  
202 of care which empowers all caregivers for children in foster  
203 care to provide quality parenting, including approving or

594-01953-15

2015320c1

204 disapproving a child's participation in activities based on the  
205 caregiver's assessment using the "reasonable and prudent parent"  
206 standard.

207 (2) QUALITY PARENTING.—A child in foster care shall be  
208 placed only with a caregiver who has the ability to care for the  
209 child, is willing to accept responsibility for providing care,  
210 and is willing and able to learn about and be respectful of the  
211 child's culture, religion and ethnicity, special physical or  
212 psychological needs, any circumstances unique to the child, and  
213 family relationships. The department, the community-based care  
214 lead agency, and other agencies shall provide such caregiver  
215 with all available information necessary to assist the caregiver  
216 in determining whether he or she is able to appropriately care  
217 for a particular child.

218 (a) *Roles and responsibilities of caregivers.*—A caregiver  
219 shall:

220 1. Participate in developing the case plan for the child  
221 and his or her family and work with others involved in his or  
222 her care to implement this plan. This participation includes the  
223 caregiver's involvement in all team meetings or court hearings  
224 related to the child's care.

225 2. Complete all training needed to improve skills in  
226 parenting a child who has experienced trauma due to neglect,  
227 abuse, or separation from home, to meet the child's special  
228 needs, and to work effectively with child welfare agencies, the  
229 court, the schools, and other community and governmental  
230 agencies.

231 3. Respect and support the child's ties to members of his  
232 or her biological family and assist the child in maintaining

594-01953-15

2015320c1

233 allowable visitation and other forms of communication.

234 4. Effectively advocate for the child in the caregiver's  
235 care with the child welfare system, the court, and community  
236 agencies, including the school, child care, health and mental  
237 health providers, and employers.

238 5. Participate fully in the child's medical, psychological,  
239 and dental care as the caregiver would for his or her biological  
240 child.

241 6. Support the child's educational ~~school~~ success by  
242 participating in ~~school~~ activities and meetings associated with  
243 the child's school or other educational setting, including  
244 Individual Education Plan meetings and meetings with an  
245 educational surrogate if one has been appointed, assisting with  
246 ~~school~~ assignments, supporting tutoring programs, ~~meeting with~~  
247 ~~teachers and working with an educational surrogate if one has~~  
248 ~~been appointed~~, and encouraging the child's participation in  
249 extracurricular activities.

250 a. Maintaining educational stability for a child while in  
251 out-of-home care by allowing the child to remain in the school  
252 or educational setting he or she attended before entry into out-  
253 of-home care is the first priority, unless it is not in the best  
254 interest of the child.

255 b. If it is not in the best interest of the child to remain  
256 in his or her school or educational setting upon entry into out-  
257 of-home care, the caregiver must work with the case manager,  
258 guardian ad litem, teachers and guidance counselors, and  
259 educational surrogate if one has been appointed, to determine  
260 the best educational setting for the child. Those settings may  
261 include a public school that is not the school of origin, a

594-01953-15

2015320c1

262 private school pursuant to s. 1002.42, virtual education  
263 programs pursuant to s. 1002.45, or education at home pursuant  
264 to s. 1002.41.

265 7. Work in partnership with other stakeholders to obtain  
266 and maintain records that are important to the child's well-  
267 being, including child resource records, medical records, school  
268 records, photographs, and records of special events and  
269 achievements.

270 8. Ensure that the child in the caregiver's care who is  
271 between 13 and 17 years of age learns and masters independent  
272 living skills.

273 9. Ensure that the child in the caregiver's care is aware  
274 of the requirements and benefits of the Road-to-Independence  
275 Program.

276 10. Work to enable the child in the caregiver's care to  
277 establish and maintain naturally occurring mentoring  
278 relationships.

279 (b) *Roles and responsibilities of the department, the*  
280 *community-based care lead agency, and other agency staff.*—The  
281 department, the community-based care lead agency, and other  
282 agency staff shall:

283 1. Include a caregiver in the development and  
284 implementation of the case plan for the child and his or her  
285 family. The caregiver shall be authorized to participate in all  
286 team meetings or court hearings related to the child's care and  
287 future plans. The caregiver's participation shall be facilitated  
288 through timely notification, an inclusive process, and  
289 alternative methods for participation for a caregiver who cannot  
290 be physically present.

594-01953-15

2015320c1

291           2. Develop and make available to the caregiver the  
292 information, services, training, and support that the caregiver  
293 needs to improve his or her skills in parenting children who  
294 have experienced trauma due to neglect, abuse, or separation  
295 from home, to meet these children's special needs, and to  
296 advocate effectively with child welfare agencies, the courts,  
297 schools, and other community and governmental agencies.

298           3. Provide the caregiver with all information related to  
299 services and other benefits that are available to the child.

300           4. Show no prejudice against a caregiver who desires to  
301 educate at home any children placed in his or her home through  
302 the child welfare system.

303           (c) *Transitions.*—

304           1. Once a caregiver accepts the responsibility of caring  
305 for a child, the child will be removed from the home of that  
306 caregiver only if:

307           a. The caregiver is clearly unable to safely or legally  
308 care for the child;

309           b. The child and his or her biological family are  
310 reunified;

311           c. The child is being placed in a legally permanent home  
312 pursuant to the case plan or a court order; or

313           d. The removal is demonstrably in the child's best  
314 interest.

315           2. In the absence of an emergency, if a child leaves the  
316 caregiver's home for a reason provided under subparagraph 1.,  
317 the transition must be accomplished according to a plan that  
318 involves cooperation and sharing of information among all  
319 persons involved, respects the child's developmental stage and

594-01953-15

2015320c1

320 psychological needs, ensures the child has all of his or her  
321 belongings, allows for a gradual transition from the caregiver's  
322 home and, if possible, for continued contact with the caregiver  
323 after the child leaves.

324 (d) *Information sharing.*—Whenever a foster home or  
325 residential group home assumes responsibility for the care of a  
326 child, the department and any additional providers shall make  
327 available to the caregiver as soon as is practicable all  
328 relevant information concerning the child. Records and  
329 information that are required to be shared with caregivers  
330 include, but are not limited to:

331 1. Medical, dental, psychological, psychiatric, and  
332 behavioral history, as well as ongoing evaluation or treatment  
333 needs;

334 2. School records;

335 3. Copies of his or her birth certificate and, if  
336 appropriate, immigration status documents;

337 4. Consents signed by parents;

338 5. Comprehensive behavioral assessments and other social  
339 assessments;

340 6. Court orders;

341 7. Visitation and case plans;

342 8. Guardian ad litem reports;

343 9. Staffing forms; and

344 10. Judicial or citizen review panel reports and  
345 attachments filed with the court, except confidential medical,  
346 psychiatric, and psychological information regarding any party  
347 or participant other than the child.

348 (e) *Caregivers employed by residential group homes.*—All

594-01953-15

2015320c1

349 caregivers in residential group homes shall meet the same  
350 education, training, and background and other screening  
351 requirements as foster parents.

352 Section 4. Section 409.1662, Florida Statutes, is created  
353 to read:

354 409.1662 Children within the child welfare system; adoption  
355 incentive program.—

356 (1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the adoption incentive program  
357 is to advance the state's achievement of permanency, stability,  
358 and well-being in living arrangements for children in foster  
359 care who cannot be reunited with their families. The department  
360 shall establish the adoption incentive program to award  
361 incentive payment to community-based care lead agencies, as  
362 defined in s. 409.986, and their subcontractors that are  
363 involved in the adoption process for achievement of specific and  
364 measurable adoption performance standards that lead to  
365 permanency, stability, and well-being for children.

366 (2) ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM.—

367 (a) The department shall conduct a comprehensive baseline  
368 assessment of the performance of lead agencies and providers  
369 related to adoption of children from foster care. The assessment  
370 shall compile annual data for each of the most recent 5 years  
371 for which data is available. The department shall update the  
372 assessment annually. At a minimum, the assessment shall  
373 identify:

374 1. The number of families attempting to adopt children from  
375 foster care and the number of families completing the adoption  
376 process.

377 2. The number of children eligible for adoption and the

594-01953-15

2015320c1

378 number of children whose adoptions were finalized.

379 3. The amount of time eligible children waited for  
380 adoption.

381 4. The number of adoptions that resulted in disruption or  
382 dissolution and the subset of those disrupted adoptions that  
383 were preventable by the community-based care lead agency or the  
384 subcontracted provider.

385 5. The time taken to complete each phase of the adoption  
386 process.

387 6. The expenditures made to recruit adoptive homes and a  
388 description of any initiative to improve adoption performance or  
389 streamline the adoption process.

390 7. The results of any specific effort to gather feedback  
391 from prospective adoptive parents, adoptive parents, children in  
392 the child welfare system, adoptees, and other stakeholders.

393 8. The use of evidence-based, evidence-informed, promising,  
394 and innovative practices in recruitment, orientation, and  
395 preparation of appropriate adoptive families, matching children  
396 with families, supporting children during the adoption process,  
397 and providing post-adoptive support.

398 (b) Using the information from the baseline assessment, the  
399 department shall annually negotiate outcome-based agreements  
400 with lead agencies and their subcontracted providers. The  
401 agreements must establish measurable outcome targets to increase  
402 the number of adoptions resulting in permanent placements that  
403 enhance children's well-being. The agreements will define the  
404 method for measuring performance and for determining the level  
405 of performance required to earn the incentive payment, and the  
406 amount of the incentive payment which may be earned for each

594-01953-15

2015320c1

407 target.

408 (3) INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.—

409 (a) The department shall allocate incentive payments to  
410 performance improvement targets in a manner that ensures that  
411 total payments do not exceed the amount appropriated for this  
412 purpose.

413 (b) The department shall ensure that the amount of the  
414 incentive payments are proportionate to the value of the  
415 performance improvement.

416 (4) REPORT.—The department shall report annually by  
417 November 15 to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and  
418 the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the negotiated  
419 targets set for, outcomes achieved by, and incentive payments  
420 made to each community-based care lead agency during the  
421 previous fiscal year. The department shall also report on the  
422 program enhancements made by each community-based care lead  
423 agency and its subcontractors to achieve negotiated outcomes  
424 under this section.

425 Section 5. Section 409.1664, Florida Statutes, is created  
426 to read:

427 409.1664 Adoption benefits for qualifying adoptive  
428 employees of state agencies.—

429 (1) As used in this section, the term:

430 (a) "Child within the child welfare system" has the same  
431 meaning as in s. 409.166.

432 (b) "Qualifying adoptive employee" means a full-time or  
433 part-time employee of a state agency who is paid from regular  
434 salary appropriations, or otherwise meets the state agency  
435 employer's definition of a regular rather than temporary

594-01953-15

2015320c1

436 employee, and who adopts a child within the child welfare system  
437 pursuant to chapter 63 on or after January 1, 2015. The term  
438 includes instructional personnel, as defined in s. 1012.01,  
439 employed by the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.

440 (c) "State agency" means a branch, department, or agency of  
441 state government for which the Chief Financial Officer processes  
442 payroll requisitions, a state university or Florida College  
443 System institution as defined in s. 1000.21, a school district  
444 unit as defined in s. 1001.30, or a water management district as  
445 defined in s. 373.019.

446 (2) A qualifying adoptive employee that adopts a child  
447 within the child welfare system who has special needs as  
448 described in s. 409.166(2)(a)2. is eligible to receive a lump  
449 sum benefit in the amount of \$10,000 per child, subject to  
450 applicable taxes. A qualifying adoptive employee that adopts a  
451 child within the child welfare system who does not have the  
452 special needs as described in s. 409.166(2)(a)2. is eligible to  
453 receive a lump sum benefit in the amount of \$5,000 per child,  
454 subject to applicable taxes.

455 (a) Benefits paid to a qualifying adoptive employee who is  
456 a part-time employee must be prorated based on the qualifying  
457 adoptive employee's full-time equivalency at the time of  
458 applying for the benefits.

459 (b) Benefits under this section are limited to one award  
460 per adopted child within the child welfare system.

461 (c) The payment of a lump-sum benefit for adopting a child  
462 within the child welfare system under this section is subject to  
463 a specific appropriation to the department for such purpose.

464 (3) A qualifying adoptive employee must apply to his or her

594-01953-15

2015320c1

465 agency head to obtain the benefit provided in subsection (2).  
466 Applications must be on forms approved by the department and  
467 must include a certified copy of the final order of adoption  
468 naming the applicant as the adoptive parent.

469 (4) This section does not preclude a qualifying adoptive  
470 employee from receiving adoption assistance he or she may  
471 qualify for under s. 409.166 or any other statute that provides  
472 financial incentives for the adoption of children.

473 (5) Parental leave for a qualifying adoptive employee must  
474 be provided in accordance with the personnel policies and  
475 procedures of the employee's state agency employer.

476 (6) The department shall adopt rules to administer this  
477 section. The rules may provide for an application process such  
478 as, but not limited to, an open enrollment period during which  
479 qualifying adoptive employees may apply for monetary benefits  
480 under this section.

481 (7) The Chief Financial Officer shall disburse a monetary  
482 benefit to a qualifying adoptive employee upon the department's  
483 submission of a payroll requisition. The Chief Financial Officer  
484 shall transfer funds from the department to a state university,  
485 Florida College System institution, school district unit, or  
486 water management district, as appropriate, to enable payment to  
487 the qualifying adoptive employee through the payroll systems as  
488 long as funds are available for such purpose.

489 (8) Each state agency shall develop a uniform procedure for  
490 informing employees about this benefit and for assisting the  
491 department in making eligibility determinations and processing  
492 applications. Any procedure adopted by a state agency is valid  
493 and enforceable if the procedure does not conflict with the

594-01953-15

2015320c1

494 express terms of this section.

495 Section 6. Section 409.1666, Florida Statutes, is created  
496 to read:

497 409.1666 Annual adoption achievement awards.—Each year, the  
498 Governor shall select and recognize one or more individuals,  
499 families, or organizations that make significant contributions  
500 to enabling this state's foster children to achieve permanency  
501 through adoption. The department shall define appropriate  
502 categories for the achievement awards and seek nominations for  
503 potential recipients in each category from individuals and  
504 organizations knowledgeable about foster care and adoption.

505 (1) The award shall recognize persons whose contributions  
506 involve extraordinary effort or personal sacrifice in order to  
507 provide caring and permanent homes for foster children.

508 (2) A direct-support organization established in accordance  
509 with s. 39.0011 by the Office of Adoption and Child Protection  
510 within the Executive Office of the Governor may accept donations  
511 of products or services from private sources to be given to the  
512 recipients of the adoption achievement awards. The direct-  
513 support organization may also provide suitable plaques, framed  
514 certificates, pins, and other tokens of recognition.

515 Section 7. Subsection (18) is added to section 409.175,  
516 Florida Statutes, to read:

517 409.175 Licensure of family foster homes, residential  
518 child-caring agencies, and child-placing agencies; public  
519 records exemption.—

520 (18) (a) A licensed child-placing agency conducting  
521 intercountry adoptions must be designated by the United States  
522 Department of State as an accredited entity for intercountry

594-01953-15

2015320c1

523 adoption services.

524 (b) A licensed child-placing agency providing adoption  
525 services for intercountry adoption in Hague Convention  
526 countries, in incoming or outgoing cases, must meet the federal  
527 regulations pertaining to intercountry adoptions with convention  
528 countries.

529 (c) An adoption agency in this state which provides  
530 intercountry adoption services for families residing in this  
531 state must maintain a record that contains, at a minimum, the  
532 following:

533 1. All available family and medical history of the birth  
534 family;

535 2. All legal documents translated into English;

536 3. All necessary documents obtained by the adoptive parent  
537 in order for the child to attain United States citizenship, or  
538 if applicable, other legal immigration status; and

539 4. All supervisory reports prepared before an adoption and  
540 after the finalization of an adoption.

541 Section 8. For the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the sum of \$6.5  
542 million in recurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is  
543 appropriated to the Department of Children and Families for the  
544 creation of the adoption incentive program. The Executive Office  
545 of the Governor shall place these funds in reserve until such  
546 time as the Department of Children and Families submits a plan  
547 identifying the performance measures, targeted outcomes, and an  
548 expenditure plan for approval to the Executive Office of the  
549 Governor and the chair and vice chair of the Legislative Budget  
550 Commission in accordance with s. 216.177, Florida Statutes.

551 Section 9. For the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the sum of

594-01953-15

2015320c1

552 \$3,425,356 in recurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is  
553 appropriated to the Department of Children and Families for the  
554 creation of the adoption benefits for qualifying adoptive  
555 employees of state agencies. For the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the  
556 sum of \$74,644 in recurring funds from the General Revenue Fund  
557 is appropriated to the Department of Children and Families and  
558 one full-time equivalent position with associated salary rate of  
559 46,382 is authorized for the creation of the adoption benefits  
560 for qualifying adoptive employees of state agencies and the  
561 development of performance measures and targeted outcomes.

562 Section 10. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.