

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to adoption assistance for children
 3 within the child welfare system; amending s. 409.166,
 4 F.S.; requiring court costs for all adoptive parents
 5 who adopt children in the custody of the Department of
 6 Children and Families to be waived rather than
 7 reimbursed by the department; providing an effective
 8 date.

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

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 12 Section 1. Subsections (6) and (7) of section 409.166,
 13 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

14 409.166 Children within the child welfare system; adoption
 15 assistance program.—

16 (6) WAIVER OF ADOPTION FEES.—The adoption fees and court
 17 costs shall be waived for all adoptive parents who adopt
 18 children in the custody of the department. Fees may be waived
 19 for families who adopt children in the custody of a licensed
 20 child-placing agency or who adopt children through independent
 21 adoptions, and who receive or may be eligible for maintenance
 22 subsidies through the department. Retroactive reimbursement of
 23 fees is not required for families who adopt children in the
 24 custody of licensed child-placing agencies.

25 (7) REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES.—The department is

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26 | authorized to reimburse, retroactive to January 1, 1987, up to
27 | \$1,000 in nonrecurring expenses related to the adoption of a
28 | child which have been incurred by adoptive parents. For purposes
29 | of this subsection, "nonrecurring expenses" means one-time
30 | expenses, such as attorney fees ~~attorney's fees, court costs,~~
31 | birth certificate fees, travel expenses, agency fees, and
32 | physical examination fees.

33 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.