

HB 609

2019

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 that court costs for all adoptive  
5           parents who adopt children in the custody of the  
6           Department of Children and Families be waived rather  
7           than reimbursed by the department; providing an  
8           effective 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, 2019.