

By Senator Montford

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1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to child care subsidies for foster
 3 parents; amending s. 409.145, F.S.; providing an early
 4 education or child care subsidy for certain foster
 5 parents; providing an effective date.

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

9 Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 409.145, Florida
 10 Statutes, is amended to read:

11 409.145 Care of children; quality parenting; "reasonable
 12 and prudent parent" standard.—The child welfare system of the
 13 department shall operate as a coordinated community-based system
 14 of care which empowers all caregivers for children in foster
 15 care to provide quality parenting, including approving or
 16 disapproving a child's participation in activities based on the
 17 caregiver's assessment using the "reasonable and prudent parent"
 18 standard.

19 (4) FOSTER CARE ROOM AND BOARD RATES; ADDITIONAL SUBSIDY
 20 FOR CHILD CARE EXPENSES.—

21 (a) Effective July 1, 2018, room and board rates shall be
 22 paid to foster parents as follows:

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Monthly Foster Care Rate		
0-5 Years	6-12 Years	13-21 Years
Age	Age	Age

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3-00111-20

2020354__

\$457.95

\$469.68

\$549.74

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(b) Each January, foster parents shall receive an annual cost of living increase. The department shall calculate the new room and board rate increase equal to the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average, All Items, not seasonally adjusted, or successor reports, for the preceding December compared to the prior December as initially reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The department shall make available the adjusted room and board rates annually.

(c) Effective July 1, 2019, foster parents of level I family foster homes, as defined in s. 409.175(5)(a), l shall receive a room and board rate of \$333.

(d) Effective July 1, 2019, the foster care room and board rate for level II family foster homes, l as defined in s. 409.175(5)(a), l shall be the same as the new rate established for family foster homes as of January 1, 2019.

(e) Effective January 1, 2020, paragraph (b) shall only apply to level II through level V family foster homes, as defined in s. 409.175(5)(a).

(f) The amount of the monthly foster care room and board rate may be increased upon agreement among the department, the community-based care lead agency, and the foster parent.

(g) From July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019, community-based care lead agencies providing care under contract with the department shall pay a supplemental room and board payment to foster care parents of all family foster homes, on a per-child basis, for providing independent life skills and normalcy

3-00111-20

2020354__

54 supports to children who are 13 through 17 years of age placed
55 in their care. The supplemental payment shall be paid monthly to
56 the foster care parents in addition to the current monthly room
57 and board rate payment. The supplemental monthly payment shall
58 be based on 10 percent of the monthly room and board rate for
59 children 13 through 21 years of age as provided under this
60 section and adjusted annually. Effective July 1, 2019, such
61 supplemental payments shall only be paid to foster parents of
62 level II through level V family foster homes.

63 (h) In addition to the foster care room and board rate, a
64 foster parent who is required under s. 39.604 to place a child
65 in an early education or a child care program and who chooses a
66 program in which the state subsidy from an early learning
67 coalition under part VI of chapter 1002 is insufficient to pay
68 the full cost shall receive a payment of up to \$300 per month to
69 pay the difference between the amount of the early learning
70 coalition subsidy and the full cost of the services.

71 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.