

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

.

Representative Williams offered the following:

Amendment to Amendment (063139) (with title amendment)

Between lines 707 and 708 of the amendment, insert:

Section 19. Subsection (1) of section 63.207, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

63.207 Out-of-state placement.—

(1) Unless the parent placing a minor for adoption files an affidavit that the parent chooses to place the minor outside the state, giving the reason for that placement, or the minor is to be placed with a relative or with a stepparent, or the minor is a difficult to place ~~special-needs~~ child, as defined in s.

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13 409.166, or for other good cause shown, an adoption entity may
14 not:

15 (a) Take or send a minor out of the state for the purpose
16 of placement for adoption; or

17 (b) Place or attempt to place a minor for the purpose of
18 adoption with a family who primarily lives and works outside
19 Florida in another state. If an adoption entity is acting under
20 this subsection, the adoption entity must file a petition for
21 declaratory statement pursuant to s. 63.102 for prior approval
22 of fees and costs. The court shall review the costs pursuant to
23 s. 63.097. The petition for declaratory statement must be
24 converted to a petition for an adoption upon placement of the
25 minor in the home. When a minor is placed for adoption with
26 prospective adoptive parents who primarily live and work outside
27 this state, the circuit court in this state may retain
28 jurisdiction over the matter until the adoption becomes final.
29 The prospective adoptive parents may finalize the adoption in
30 this state.

31 Section 20. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsection
32 (3) of section 258.0142, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

33 258.0142 Foster and adoptive family state park fee
34 discounts.—

35 (1) To promote awareness of the contributions made by
36 foster families and adoptive families to the vitality of the
37 state, the Division of Recreation and Parks shall provide the

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38 following discounts on state park fees to persons who present
39 written documentation satisfactory to the division which
40 evidences their eligibility for the discounts:

41 (b) Families who adopt a difficult to place ~~special-needs~~
42 child as described in s. 409.166(2)(a)2. from the Department of
43 Children and Families shall receive a one-time family annual
44 entrance pass at no charge at the time of the adoption.

45 (3) The division shall continue its partnership with the
46 Department of Children and Families to promote fostering and
47 adoption of difficult to place ~~special-needs~~ children with
48 events held each year during National Foster Care Month and
49 National Adoption Month.

50 Section 21. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (2) of
51 section 409.166, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

52 409.166 Children within the child welfare system; adoption
53 assistance program.—

54 (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

55 (a) "Difficult to place ~~Special-needs~~ child" means:

56 1. A child whose permanent custody has been awarded to the
57 department or to a licensed child-placing agency;

58 2. A child who has established significant emotional ties
59 with his or her foster parents or is not likely to be adopted
60 because he or she is:

61 a. Eight years of age or older;

62 b. Developmentally disabled;

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- 63 c. Physically or emotionally handicapped;
- 64 d. Of black or racially mixed parentage; or
- 65 e. A member of a sibling group of any age, provided two or
- 66 more members of a sibling group remain together for purposes of
- 67 adoption; and

68 3. Except when the child is being adopted by the child's
69 foster parents or relative caregivers, a child for whom a
70 reasonable but unsuccessful effort has been made to place the
71 child without providing a maintenance subsidy.

72 (c) "Child within the child welfare system" or "child"
73 means a difficult to place ~~special-needs~~ child and any other
74 child who was removed from the child's caregiver due to abuse or
75 neglect and whose permanent custody has been awarded to the
76 department or to a licensed child-placing agency.

77 Section 22. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
78 414.045, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

79 414.045 Cash assistance program.—Cash assistance families
80 include any families receiving cash assistance payments from the
81 state program for temporary assistance for needy families as
82 defined in federal law, whether such funds are from federal
83 funds, state funds, or commingled federal and state funds. Cash
84 assistance families may also include families receiving cash
85 assistance through a program defined as a separate state
86 program.

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87 (1) For reporting purposes, families receiving cash
88 assistance shall be grouped into the following categories. The
89 department may develop additional groupings in order to comply
90 with federal reporting requirements, to comply with the data-
91 reporting needs of the state board as defined in s. 445.002, or
92 to better inform the public of program progress.

93 (b) Child-only cases.—Child-only cases include cases that
94 do not have an adult or teen head of household as defined in
95 federal law. Such cases include:

96 1. Children in the care of caretaker relatives, if the
97 caretaker relatives choose to have their needs excluded in the
98 calculation of the amount of cash assistance.

99 2. Families in the Relative Caregiver Program as provided
100 in s. 39.5085.

101 3. Families in which the only parent in a single-parent
102 family or both parents in a two-parent family receive
103 supplemental security income (SSI) benefits under Title XVI of
104 the Social Security Act, as amended. To the extent permitted by
105 federal law, individuals receiving SSI shall be excluded as
106 household members in determining the amount of cash assistance,
107 and such cases shall not be considered families containing an
108 adult. Parents or caretaker relatives who are excluded from the
109 cash assistance group due to receipt of SSI may choose to
110 participate in work activities. An individual whose ability to
111 participate in work activities is limited who volunteers to

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112 participate in work activities shall be assigned to work
113 activities consistent with such limitations. An individual who
114 volunteers to participate in a work activity may receive child
115 care or support services consistent with such participation.

116 4. Families in which the only parent in a single-parent
117 family or both parents in a two-parent family are not eligible
118 for cash assistance due to immigration status or other
119 limitation of federal law. To the extent required by federal
120 law, such cases shall not be considered families containing an
121 adult.

122 5. To the extent permitted by federal law and subject to
123 appropriations, difficult to place ~~special-needs~~ children who
124 have been adopted pursuant to s. 409.166 and whose adopting
125 family qualifies as a needy family under the state program for
126 temporary assistance for needy families. Notwithstanding any
127 provision to the contrary in s. 414.075, s. 414.085, or s.
128 414.095, a family shall be considered a needy family if:

129 a. The family is determined by the department to have an
130 income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level;

131 b. The family meets the requirements of s. 414.095(2) and
132 (3) related to residence, citizenship, or eligible noncitizen
133 status; and

134 c. The family provides any information that may be
135 necessary to meet federal reporting requirements specified under
136 Part A of Title IV of the Social Security Act.

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137 6. Families in the Guardianship Assistance Program as
138 provided in s. 39.6225.

139
140 Families described in subparagraph 1., subparagraph 2., or
141 subparagraph 3. may receive child care assistance or other
142 supports or services so that the children may continue to be
143 cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives. Such
144 assistance or services may be funded from the temporary
145 assistance for needy families block grant to the extent
146 permitted under federal law and to the extent funds have been
147 provided in the General Appropriations Act.

148 Section 23. Subsection (2) of section 409.1664, Florida
149 Statutes, is amended, to read:

150 409.1664 Adoption benefits for qualifying adoptive
151 employees of state agencies, veterans, and servicemembers.—

152 (2) A qualifying adoptive employee, veteran, or
153 servicemember who adopts a child within the child welfare system
154 who is difficult to place as ~~has special needs~~ described in s.
155 409.166(2)(a)2. is eligible to receive a lump-sum monetary
156 benefit in the amount of \$10,000 per such child, subject to
157 applicable taxes. A qualifying adoptive employee, veteran, or
158 servicemember who adopts a child within the child welfare system
159 who is not difficult to place as ~~does not have special needs~~
160 described in s. 409.166(2)(a)2. is eligible to receive a lump-
161 sum monetary benefit in the amount of \$5,000 per such child,

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162 subject to applicable taxes. A qualifying adoptive employee of a
 163 charter school or the Florida Virtual School may retroactively
 164 apply for the monetary benefit provided in this subsection if
 165 such employee was employed by a charter school or the Florida
 166 Virtual School when he or she adopted a child within the child
 167 welfare system pursuant to chapter 63 on or after July 1, 2015.
 168 A veteran or servicemember may apply for the monetary benefit
 169 provided in this subsection if he or she is domiciled in this
 170 state and adopts a child within the child welfare system
 171 pursuant to chapter 63 on or after July 1, 2020.

T I T L E A M E N D M E N T

174 Remove line 821 of the amendment and insert:
 175 June as "Responsible Fatherhood Month"; amending ss.
 176 63.207, 258.0142, and 414.045, F.S.; conforming
 177 provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.
 178 409.166, F.S.; revising a definition; amending s.
 179 409.1664, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made
 180 by the act; providing an
 181