

2024958er

1  
2 An act relating to local government employees;  
3 amending s. 145.11, F.S.; revising the base salary  
4 used to calculate the compensation of county tax  
5 collectors; amending s. 409.1664, F.S.; defining the  
6 term "tax collector employee"; providing that tax  
7 collector employees are eligible to receive specified  
8 monetary benefits from the state for adopting children  
9 within the child welfare system; authorizing tax  
10 collector employees to apply for the monetary benefits  
11 if certain conditions are met; requiring such  
12 employees to apply to the Department of Children and  
13 Families to obtain the benefits; revising  
14 construction; authorizing the department to adopt  
15 specified rules; creating s. 445.09, F.S.; authorizing  
16 specified tax collectors to budget for and pay  
17 specified bonuses to employees, pending a specified  
18 approval; amending s. 1001.47, F.S.; revising the base  
19 salary used to calculate the compensation of district  
20 school superintendents; making a technical change;  
21 amending s. 1003.48, F.S.; authorizing district school  
22 boards to contract with a county tax collector's  
23 office to administer road tests on school grounds at  
24 one or more schools within the district; providing an  
25 effective date.

26  
27 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
28

29 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 145.11, Florida

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30 Statutes, is amended to read:

31 145.11 Tax collector.—

32 (1) Each tax collector shall receive as salary the amount  
33 indicated, based on the population of his or her county. In  
34 addition, a compensation shall be made for population increments  
35 over the minimum for each population group, which shall be  
36 determined by multiplying the population in excess of the  
37 minimum for the group times the group rate.

38	Pop. Group	County Pop. Range		Base Salary	Group Rate
39		Minimum	Maximum		
40	I			<u>\$26,250</u>	
41		-0-	49,999	<del>\$21,250</del>	\$0.07875
42	II			<u>29,400</u>	
		50,000	99,999	<del>24,400</del>	0.06300
43	III			<u>32,550</u>	
		100,000	199,999	<del>27,550</del>	0.02625
44	IV			<u>35,175</u>	
		200,000	399,999	<del>30,175</del>	0.01575
45	V			<u>38,325</u>	
		400,000	999,999	<del>33,325</del>	0.00525

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VI		<u>41,475</u>	
	1,000,000	<del>36,475</del>	0.00400

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Section 2. Section 409.1664, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

409.1664 Adoption benefits for qualifying adoptive employees of state agencies, veterans, servicemembers, ~~and law enforcement officers, and tax collector employees.~~

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

(a) "Child within the child welfare system" has the same meaning as provided in s. 409.166(2).

(b) "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as provided in s. 943.10(1).

(c) "Qualifying adoptive employee" means a full-time or part-time employee of a state agency, a charter school established under s. 1002.33, or the Florida Virtual School established under s. 1002.37, who is not an independent contractor and who adopts a child within the child welfare system pursuant to chapter 63 on or after July 1, 2015. The term includes instructional personnel, as defined in s. 1012.01, who are employed by the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, and includes other-personal-services employees who have been continuously employed full time or part time by a state agency for at least 1 year.

(d) "Servicemember" has the same meaning as in s. 250.01(19).

(e) "State agency" means a branch, department, or agency of state government for which the Chief Financial Officer processes payroll requisitions, a state university or Florida College

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73 System institution as defined in s. 1000.21, a school district  
74 unit as defined in s. 1001.30, or a water management district as  
75 defined in s. 373.019.

76 (f) "Tax collector employee" means an employee of an office  
77 of the county tax collector in this state.

78 (g) "Veteran" has the same meaning as in s. 1.01(14).

79 (2) A qualifying adoptive employee, veteran, or  
80 servicemember who adopts a child within the child welfare system  
81 who is difficult to place as described in s. 409.166(2)(d)2. is  
82 eligible to receive a lump-sum monetary benefit in the amount of  
83 \$10,000 per such child, subject to applicable taxes. A law  
84 enforcement officer or tax collector employee who adopts a child  
85 within the child welfare system who is difficult to place as  
86 described in s. 409.166(2)(d)2. is eligible to receive a lump-  
87 sum monetary benefit in the amount of \$25,000 per such child,  
88 subject to applicable taxes. A qualifying adoptive employee,  
89 veteran, or servicemember who adopts a child within the child  
90 welfare system who is not difficult to place as described in s.  
91 409.166(2)(d)2. is eligible to receive a lump-sum monetary  
92 benefit in the amount of \$5,000 per such child, subject to  
93 applicable taxes. A law enforcement officer or tax collector  
94 employee who adopts a child within the child welfare system who  
95 is not difficult to place as described in s. 409.166(2)(d)2. is  
96 eligible to receive a lump-sum monetary benefit in the amount of  
97 \$10,000 per each such child, subject to applicable taxes. A  
98 qualifying adoptive employee of a charter school or the Florida  
99 Virtual School may retroactively apply for the monetary benefit  
100 provided in this subsection if such employee was employed by a  
101 charter school or the Florida Virtual School when he or she

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102 adopted a child within the child welfare system pursuant to  
103 chapter 63 on or after July 1, 2015. A veteran or servicemember  
104 may apply for the monetary benefit provided in this subsection  
105 if he or she is domiciled in this state and adopts a child  
106 within the child welfare system pursuant to chapter 63 on or  
107 after July 1, 2020. A law enforcement officer may apply for the  
108 monetary benefit provided in this subsection if he or she is  
109 domiciled in this state and adopts a child within the child  
110 welfare system pursuant to chapter 63 on or after July 1, 2022.  
111 A tax collector employee may apply for the monetary benefit  
112 provided in this subsection if he or she is domiciled in this  
113 state and adopts a child within the child welfare system under  
114 chapter 63 on or after July 1, 2024.

115 (a) Benefits paid to a qualifying adoptive employee who is  
116 a part-time employee must be prorated based on the qualifying  
117 adoptive employee's full-time equivalency at the time of  
118 applying for the benefits.

119 (b) Monetary benefits awarded under this subsection are  
120 limited to one award per adopted child within the child welfare  
121 system.

122 (c) The payment of a lump-sum monetary benefit for adopting  
123 a child within the child welfare system under this section is  
124 subject to a specific appropriation to the department for such  
125 purpose.

126 (3) A qualifying adoptive employee must apply to his or her  
127 agency head, or to his or her school director in the case of a  
128 qualifying adoptive employee of a charter school or the Florida  
129 Virtual School, to obtain the monetary benefit provided in  
130 subsection (2). A veteran, ~~or~~ servicemember, or tax collector

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131 employee must apply to the department to obtain the benefit. A  
132 law enforcement officer must apply to the Department of Law  
133 Enforcement to obtain the benefit. Applications must be on forms  
134 approved by the department and must include a certified copy of  
135 the final order of adoption naming the applicant as the adoptive  
136 parent. Monetary benefits shall be approved on a first-come,  
137 first-served basis based upon the date that each fully completed  
138 application is received by the department.

139 (4) This section does not preclude a qualifying adoptive  
140 employee, veteran, servicemember, ~~or~~ law enforcement officer, or  
141 tax collector employee from receiving adoption assistance for  
142 which he or she may qualify under s. 409.166 or any other  
143 statute that provides financial incentives for the adoption of  
144 children.

145 (5) Parental leave for a qualifying adoptive employee must  
146 be provided in accordance with the personnel policies and  
147 procedures of his or her employer.

148 (6) The department may adopt rules to administer this  
149 section. The rules may provide for an application process such  
150 as, but not limited to, an open enrollment period during which  
151 qualifying adoptive employees, veterans, servicemembers, ~~or~~ law  
152 enforcement officers, or tax collector employees may apply for  
153 monetary benefits under this section.

154 (7) The Chief Financial Officer shall disburse a monetary  
155 benefit to a qualifying adoptive employee upon the department's  
156 submission of a payroll requisition. The Chief Financial Officer  
157 shall transfer funds from the department to a state university,  
158 a Florida College System institution, a school district unit, a  
159 charter school, the Florida Virtual School, or a water

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160 management district, as appropriate, to enable payment to the  
161 qualifying adoptive employee through the payroll systems as long  
162 as funds are available for such purpose.

163 (8) To receive an approved monetary benefit under this  
164 section, a veteran or servicemember must be registered as a  
165 vendor with the state.

166 (9) Each state agency shall develop a uniform procedure for  
167 informing employees about this benefit and for assisting the  
168 department in making eligibility determinations and processing  
169 applications. Any procedure adopted by a state agency is valid  
170 and enforceable if the procedure does not conflict with the  
171 express terms of this section.

172 Section 3. Section 445.09, Florida Statutes, is created to  
173 read:

174 445.09 Bonuses for employees of tax collectors.-  
175 Notwithstanding any other law, a county tax collector may budget  
176 for and pay a hiring or retention bonus to an employee if such  
177 expenditure is approved by the Department of Revenue in the  
178 respective budget of the tax collector.

179 Section 4. Section 1001.47, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
180 read:

181 1001.47 District school superintendent; salary.-

182 (1) Each elected district school superintendent shall  
183 receive as salary the amount indicated pursuant to this section.  
184 However, a district school board, by majority vote, may approve  
185 a salary in excess of the amount specified in this section.

186 (2) Each elected district school superintendent shall  
187 receive a base salary, the amounts indicated in this subsection,  
188 based on the population of the county the elected superintendent

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189 serves. In addition, compensation shall be made for population  
 190 increments over the minimum for each population group, which  
 191 shall be determined by multiplying the population in excess of  
 192 the minimum for the group times the group rate. The product of  
 193 such calculation shall be added to the base salary to determine  
 194 the adjusted base salary. Laws that increase the base salary  
 195 provided in this subsection shall contain provisions on no other  
 196 subject.

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198	Pop. Group	County Pop. Range		Base Salary	Group Rate
199		Minimum	Maximum		
200	I	-0-	49,999	<del>\$21,250</del> <u>\$26,250</u>	\$0.07875
201	II	50,000	99,999	<del>24,400</del> <u>29,400</u>	0.06300
202	III	100,000	199,999	<del>27,550</del> <u>32,550</u>	0.02625
203	IV	200,000	399,999	<del>30,175</del> <u>35,175</u>	0.01575
204	V	400,000	999,999	<del>33,325</del> <u>38,325</u>	0.00525



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VI	1,000,000	<del>36,475</del>	0.00400

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(3) The adjusted base salaries of elected district school superintendents shall be increased annually as provided for in s. 145.19. Any salary previously paid to elected superintendents, including the salary calculated for fiscal years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, which was consistent with chapter 145 and s. 230.303, Florida Statutes (2001), is hereby ratified and validated.

(4) (a) There shall be an additional \$2,000 per year special qualification salary paid by district school boards for each elected district school superintendent who has met the certification requirements established by the Department of Education. Any elected district school superintendent who is certified during a calendar year shall receive in that year a pro rata share of the special qualification salary based on the remaining period of the year.

(b) In order to qualify for the special qualification salary provided by paragraph (a), the elected district school superintendent must complete the requirements established by the Department of Education within 6 years after first taking office.

(c) After an elected district school superintendent meets the requirements of paragraph (a), in order to remain certified the district school superintendent shall thereafter be required to complete each year a course of continuing education as prescribed by the Department of Education.

(5) (a) The Department of Education shall provide a

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232 leadership development and performance compensation program for  
233 elected district school superintendents, comparable to chief  
234 executive officer development programs for corporate executive  
235 officers, to include:

236 1. A content-knowledge-and-skills phase consisting of:  
237 creative leadership models and theory, demonstration of  
238 effective practice, simulation exercises and personal skills  
239 practice, and assessment with feedback, taught in a professional  
240 training setting under the direction of experienced, successful  
241 trainers.

242 2. A competency-acquisition phase consisting of on-the-job  
243 application of knowledge and skills for a period of not less  
244 than 6 months following the successful completion of the  
245 content-knowledge-and-skills phase. The competency-acquisition  
246 phase shall be supported by adequate professional technical  
247 assistance provided by experienced trainers approved by the  
248 department. Competency acquisition shall be demonstrated through  
249 assessment and feedback.

250 (b) Upon the successful completion of both phases and  
251 demonstrated successful performance, as determined by the  
252 department, an elected district school superintendent shall be  
253 issued a Chief Executive Officer Leadership Development  
254 Certificate, and the department shall pay an annual performance  
255 salary incentive of not less than \$3,000 nor more than \$7,500  
256 based upon his or her performance evaluation.

257 (c) An elected district school superintendent's eligibility  
258 to continue receiving the annual performance salary incentive is  
259 contingent upon his or her continued performance assessment and  
260 follow-up ~~followup~~ training prescribed by the department.

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261 (6) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section and s.  
262 145.19, elected district school superintendents may reduce their  
263 salary rate on a voluntary basis.

264 Section 5. Section 1003.48, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
265 read:

266 1003.48 Instruction in operation of motor vehicles; road  
267 tests.—

268 (1) A course of study and instruction in the safe and  
269 lawful operation of a motor vehicle shall be made available by  
270 each district school board to students in the secondary schools  
271 in the state. The secondary school shall provide preferential  
272 enrollment to a student who is in the custody of the Department  
273 of Children and Families if the student maintains appropriate  
274 progress as required by the school. As used in this section, the  
275 term "motor vehicle" has the same meaning as in s. 320.01(1)(a)  
276 and includes motorcycles and mopeds. Instruction in motorcycle  
277 or moped operation may be limited to classroom instruction. The  
278 course may not be made a part of, or a substitute for, any of  
279 the minimum requirements for graduation.

280 (2) In order to make such a course available to any  
281 secondary school student, the district school board may use any  
282 one of the following procedures or any combination thereof:

283 (a) Use instructional personnel employed by the district  
284 school board.

285 (b) Contract with a commercial driving school licensed  
286 under chapter 488.

287 (c) Contract with an instructor certified under chapter  
288 488.

289 (3) District school boards shall earn funds on full-time

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290 equivalent students at the appropriate basic program cost  
291 factor, regardless of the method by which such courses are  
292 offered.

293 (4) For the purpose of financing the driver education  
294 program in the secondary schools, there shall be levied an  
295 additional 50 cents per year to the driver license fee required  
296 by s. 322.21. The additional fee shall be promptly remitted to  
297 the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, which shall  
298 transmit the fee to the Chief Financial Officer to be deposited  
299 in the General Revenue Fund.

300 (5) The district school board shall prescribe standards for  
301 the course required by this section and for instructional  
302 personnel directly employed by the district school board. A  
303 certified instructor or licensed commercial driving school is  
304 sufficiently qualified and is not required to meet any standards  
305 in lieu of or in addition to those prescribed under chapter 488.

306 (6) District school boards may contract with the county tax  
307 collector for a tax collector employee to administer road tests  
308 on school grounds at one or more schools within the district.

309 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.