

By Senator Gruters

22-00343-25

2025544__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to foster care payments; amending s.
3 39.5085, F.S.; authorizing certain payments to
4 relatives or nonrelatives who have a child placed with
5 them in out-of-home care and who obtain a child-
6 specific level I foster license within a specified
7 timeframe; making technical changes; providing
8 applicability; providing an effective date.

9
10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

11
12 Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section
13 39.5085, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

14 39.5085 Relative Caregiver Program.—

15 (2)

16 (d)1. Relatives or nonrelatives who have a child placed
17 with them in out-of-home care and who have obtained ~~licensure as~~
18 a child-specific level I foster license placement, regardless of
19 whether a court has found the child to be dependent, shall
20 receive a monthly payment in accordance with s. 409.145(3) from
21 the date the child is placed in out-of-home care with his or her
22 relatives or with nonrelatives until the child achieves
23 permanency as determined by the court pursuant to s. 39.621.

24 2. Relatives or nonrelatives who have a child ~~who has been~~
25 found to be dependent placed with them in out-of-home care and
26 who have not obtained a child-specific level I foster license
27 shall receive a monthly payment at a rate equal to the rate
28 established in s. 409.145(3) for licensed foster parents,
29 ~~regardless of whether the relatives or nonrelatives have~~

22-00343-25

2025544__

30 ~~obtained a child-specific level I foster license,~~ from the date
31 the child is found to be dependent or from the date the child is
32 placed with them in out-of-home care, whichever is later, for a
33 period of no more than 6 months or until the child achieves
34 permanency as determined by the court pursuant to s. 39.621,
35 whichever occurs first. Relatives or nonrelatives who obtain a
36 child-specific level I foster license within the 6-month period
37 after the date of placement shall receive retroactive payment at
38 a rate equal to the rate established in s. 409.145(3) for
39 licensed foster parents for any month in which the relatives or
40 nonrelatives did not receive a monthly payment because a court
41 had not yet found the child to be dependent.

42 3. Relatives or nonrelatives who have a child ~~who has been~~
43 found to be dependent placed with them in out-of-home care and
44 who have not obtained a child-specific level I foster license
45 within 6 months from the date of such placement shall receive a
46 monthly payment in an amount determined by department rule from
47 6 months after the date the child is found to be dependent or
48 from 6 months after the child is placed with them in out-of-home
49 care, whichever is later, until the relatives or nonrelatives
50 obtain a child-specific level I foster license or until the
51 child achieves permanency as determined by the court pursuant to
52 s. 39.621, whichever occurs first. The monthly payment amount
53 paid to relatives or nonrelatives pursuant to this subparagraph
54 must be less than the monthly payment amount provided to a
55 participant enrolled in the Guardianship Assistance Program
56 pursuant to s. 39.6225.

57 4. Relatives or nonrelatives who have a child placed in
58 their care by permanent guardianship pursuant to s. 39.6221, in

22-00343-25

2025544__

59 a permanent placement with a fit and willing relative pursuant
60 to s. 39.6231, or under former s. 39.622 if the placement was
61 made before July 1, 2006, and who are not enrolled in the
62 Guardianship Assistance Program pursuant to s. 39.6225 shall
63 receive a monthly payment in an amount determined by department
64 rule which must be less than the monthly payment amount provided
65 to a participant enrolled in the Guardianship Assistance Program
66 under s. 39.6225.

67 Section 2. The amendments made by this act to s. 39.5085,
68 Florida Statutes, apply to relatives or nonrelatives who have a
69 child placed with them in out-of-home care on or after July 1,
70 2025.

71 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.