

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Conforming Bill  
Relating to Adoption Subsidies

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to adoption subsidies; amending s.  
3       409.1664, F.S.; adding health care practitioners  
4       and tax collector employees to those eligible for  
5       adoption benefits; defining health care  
6       practitioner; defining tax collector employee;  
7       adjusting the adoption benefit amount; requiring  
8       health care practitioners to apply to the  
9       Department of Health to obtain the benefit;  
10      requiring tax collector employees to apply to the  
11      Department of Children and Families to obtain the  
12      benefit; providing an effective date.

13  
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

15  
16       Section 1. Section 409.1664, Florida Statutes, is  
17 amended to read:

18       409.1664 - Adoption benefits for qualifying adoptive  
19 employees of state agencies, veterans, servicemembers, ~~and~~  
20 law enforcement officers, health care practitioners, and  
21 tax collector employees.

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

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

25       (b) "Health care practitioner" means a person listed  
26 in s. 456.001(4) who holds an active status license from

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the Department of Health and whose individual income does not exceed \$150,000.

(c) "Tax collector employee" means an employee of an office of county tax collector in the state.

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

(e) ~~(e)~~ "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.

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

(g) ~~(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 System institution as defined in s. 1000.21, a school district unit as defined in s. 1001.30, or a water management district as defined in s. 373.019.

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(h) ~~(f)~~ "Veteran" has the same meaning as in s.  
1.01(14).

(2) A qualifying adoptive employee, veteran, ~~or~~  
servicemember, law enforcement officer, health care  
practitioner, or tax collector employee who adopts a child  
within the child welfare system who is difficult to place  
as described in s. 409.166(2)(d)2. is eligible to receive a  
lump-sum monetary benefit in the amount of ~~\$10,000~~ \$25,000  
per such child, subject to applicable taxes. ~~A law~~  
~~enforcement officer who adopts a child within the child~~  
~~welfare system who is difficult to place as described in s.~~  
~~409.166(2)(d)2. is eligible to receive a lump-sum monetary~~  
~~benefit in the amount of \$25,000 per such child, subject to~~  
~~applicable taxes. A qualifying adoptive employee, veteran,~~  
~~or~~ servicemember, law enforcement officer, health care  
practitioner, or tax collector employee who adopts a child  
within the child welfare system who is not difficult to  
place as described in s. 409.166(2)(d)2. is eligible to  
receive a lump-sum monetary benefit in the amount of ~~\$5,000~~  
\$10,000 per such child, subject to applicable taxes. ~~A law~~  
~~enforcement officer who adopts a child within the child~~  
~~welfare system who is not difficult to place as described~~  
~~in 2s. 409.166(2)(d)2. is eligible to receive a lump-sum~~  
~~monetary benefit in the amount of \$10,000 per each such~~  
~~child, subject to applicable taxes. A qualifying adoptive~~  
employee of a charter school or the Florida Virtual School  
may retroactively apply for the monetary benefit provided

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80 in this subsection if such employee was employed by a  
81 charter school or the Florida Virtual School when he or she  
82 adopted a child within the child welfare system pursuant to  
83 chapter 63 on or after July 1, 2015. A veteran or  
84 servicemember may apply for the monetary benefit provided  
85 in this subsection if he or she is domiciled in this state  
86 and adopts a child within the child welfare system pursuant  
87 to chapter 63 on or after July 1, 2020. A law enforcement  
88 officer may apply for the monetary benefit provided in this  
89 subsection if he or she is domiciled in this state and  
90 adopts a child within the child welfare system pursuant to  
91 chapter 63 on or after July 1, 2022. A health care  
92 practitioner or tax collector employee may apply for the  
93 monetary benefit provided in this subsection if he or she  
94 is domiciled in this state and adopts a child within the  
95 child welfare system pursuant to chapter 63 on or after  
96 July 1, 2024.

97 (a) Benefits paid to a qualifying adoptive employee  
98 who is a part-time employee must be prorated based on the  
99 qualifying adoptive employee's full-time equivalency at the  
100 time of applying for the benefits.

101 (b) Monetary benefits awarded under this subsection  
102 are limited to one award per adopted child within the child  
103 welfare system.

104 (c) The payment of a lump-sum monetary benefit for  
105 adopting a child within the child welfare system under this

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section is subject to a specific appropriation to the department for such purpose.

(3) A qualifying adoptive employee must apply to his or her agency head, or to his or her school director in the case of a qualifying adoptive employee of a charter school or the Florida Virtual School, to obtain the monetary benefit provided in subsection (2). A veteran, ~~or~~ servicemember, or tax collector employee must apply to the department to obtain the benefit. A law enforcement officer must apply to the Department of Law Enforcement to obtain the benefit. A health care practitioner must apply to the Department of Health to obtain the benefit. Applications must be on forms approved by the department and must include a certified copy of the final order of adoption naming the applicant as the adoptive parent. Monetary benefits shall be approved on a first-come, first-served basis based upon the date that each fully completed application is received by the department.

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

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

134 (6) The department may adopt rules to administer this  
135 section. The rules may provide for an application process  
136 such as, but not limited to, an open enrollment period  
137 during which qualifying adoptive employees, veterans,  
138 servicemembers, ~~or~~ law enforcement officers, health care  
139 practitioners, or tax collector employee may apply for  
140 monetary benefits under this section.

141 (7) The Chief Financial Officer shall disburse a  
142 monetary benefit to a qualifying adoptive employee upon the  
143 department's submission of a payroll requisition. The Chief  
144 Financial Officer shall transfer funds from the department  
145 to a state university, a Florida College System  
146 institution, a school district unit, a charter school, the  
147 Florida Virtual School, or a water management district, as  
148 appropriate, to enable payment to the qualifying adoptive  
149 employee through the payroll systems as long as funds are  
150 available for such purpose.

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

154 (9) Each state agency shall develop a uniform  
155 procedure for informing employees about this benefit and  
156 for assisting the department in making eligibility  
157 determinations and processing applications. Any procedure

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158 | adopted by a state agency is valid and enforceable if the  
159 | procedure does not conflict with the express terms of this  
160 | section.

161 |       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.