

Amendment No. 1

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED _____ (Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED _____ (Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION _____ (Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT _____ (Y/N)
WITHDRAWN _____ (Y/N)
OTHER

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Appropriations Committee
2 Representative Trabulsy offered the following:

3

4 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

5 Between lines 614 and 615, insert:

6 Section 13. Section 409.1664, Florida Statutes, is amended
7 to read:

8 409.1664 Adoption benefits for qualifying adoptive
9 employees of state agencies, veterans, servicemembers, and law
10 enforcement officers, health care practitioners, and tax
11 collector employees.—

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

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

Amendment No. 1

15 (b) "Health care practitioner" means a person listed in s.
16 456.001(4) who holds an active license from the Department of
17 Health and whose gross income does not exceed \$150,000 per year.

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

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

31 (e)~~(d)~~ "Servicemember" has the same meaning as in s.
32 250.01(19).

33 (f)~~(e)~~ "State agency" means a branch, department, or
34 agency of state government for which the Chief Financial Officer
35 processes payroll requisitions, a state university or Florida
36 College System institution as defined in s. 1000.21, a school
37 district unit as defined in s. 1001.30, or a water management
38 district as defined in s. 373.019.

Amendment No. 1

39 (g) "Tax collector employee" means an employee of an office
40 of county tax collector in this state.

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

42 (2) A qualifying adoptive employee, veteran, law
43 enforcement officer, health care practitioner, tax collector
44 employee, or servicemember who adopts a child within the child
45 welfare system who is difficult to place as described in s.
46 409.166(2)(d)2. is eligible to receive a lump-sum monetary
47 benefit in the amount of \$25,000 ~~\$10,000~~ per such child, subject
48 to applicable taxes. ~~A law enforcement officer who adopts a~~
49 ~~child within the child welfare system who is difficult to place~~
50 ~~as described in s. 409.166(2)(d)2. is eligible to receive a~~
51 ~~lump-sum monetary benefit in the amount of \$25,000 per such~~
52 ~~child, subject to applicable taxes.~~ A qualifying adoptive
53 employee, veteran, law enforcement officer, health care
54 practitioner, tax collector employee, or servicemember who
55 adopts a child within the child welfare system who is not
56 difficult to place as described in s. 409.166(2)(d)2. is
57 eligible to receive a lump-sum monetary benefit in the amount of
58 \$10,000 ~~\$5,000~~ per such child, subject to applicable taxes. A
59 ~~law enforcement officer who adopts a child within the child~~
60 ~~welfare system who is not difficult to place as described in s.~~
61 ~~409.166(2)(d)2. is eligible to receive a lump-sum monetary~~
62 ~~benefit in the amount of \$10,000 per each such child, subject to~~
63 ~~applicable taxes.~~ A qualifying adoptive employee of a charter

803557 - h1083-line614-Trabulsyl.docx

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Amendment No. 1

64 school or the Florida Virtual School may retroactively apply for
65 the monetary benefit provided in this subsection if such
66 employee was employed by a charter school or the Florida Virtual
67 School when he or she adopted a child within the child welfare
68 system pursuant to chapter 63 on or after July 1, 2015. A
69 veteran or servicemember may apply for the monetary benefit
70 provided in this subsection if he or she is domiciled in this
71 state and adopts a child within the child welfare system
72 pursuant to chapter 63 on or after July 1, 2020. A law
73 enforcement officer may apply for the monetary benefit provided
74 in this subsection if he or she is domiciled in this state and
75 adopts a child within the child welfare system pursuant to
76 chapter 63 on or after July 1, 2022. A health care practitioner
77 or tax collector employee may apply for the monetary benefit
78 provided in this subsection if he or she is domiciled in this
79 state and adopts a child within the child welfare system
80 pursuant to chapter 63 on or after July 1, 2024.

81 (a) Benefits paid to a qualifying adoptive employee who is
82 a part-time employee must be prorated based on the qualifying
83 adoptive employee's full-time equivalency at the time of
84 applying for the benefits.

85 (b) Monetary benefits awarded under this subsection are
86 limited to one award per adopted child within the child welfare
87 system.

Amendment No. 1

88 (c) The payment of a lump-sum monetary benefit for
89 adopting a child within the child welfare system under this
90 section is subject to a specific appropriation to the department
91 for such purpose.

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

107 (4) This section does not preclude a qualifying adoptive
108 employee, veteran, servicemember, health care practitioner, tax
109 collector employee, or law enforcement officer from receiving
110 adoption assistance for which he or she may qualify under s.
111 409.166 or any other statute that provides financial incentives
112 for the adoption of children.

Amendment No. 1

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

116 (6) The department may adopt rules to administer this
117 section. The rules may provide for an application process such
118 as, but not limited to, an open enrollment period during which
119 qualifying adoptive employees, veterans, servicemembers, health
120 care practitioners, tax collector employees, or law enforcement
121 officers may apply for monetary benefits under this section.

122 (7) The Chief Financial Officer shall disburse a monetary
123 benefit to a qualifying adoptive employee upon the department's
124 submission of a payroll requisition. The Chief Financial Officer
125 shall transfer funds from the department to a state university,
126 a Florida College System institution, a school district unit, a
127 charter school, the Florida Virtual School, or a water
128 management district, as appropriate, to enable payment to the
129 qualifying adoptive employee through the payroll systems as long
130 as funds are available for such purpose.

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

134 (9) Each state agency shall develop a uniform procedure
135 for informing employees about this benefit and for assisting the
136 department in making eligibility determinations and processing
137 applications. Any procedure adopted by a state agency is valid

803557 - h1083-line614-Trabulsyl.docx

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Amendment No. 1

138 and enforceable if the procedure does not conflict with the
139 express terms of this section.

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

143 Remove line 68 and insert:

144 assistance; amending s. 409.1664, F.S.; providing definitions;
145 providing certain adoption benefits to health care practitioners
146 and tax collector employees; specifying methods for such persons
147 to apply for such benefits; increasing the amount of monetary
148 adoption benefits certain persons are eligible to receive;
149 amending s. 409.167, F.S., providing

150