

# Florida

## Department of Education

**Bill Number:** House Bill 803

**Bill Title:** Qualifying Adoptive Parents/Benefits

**Bill Sponsor:** Healthcare Council and Representative Cusack

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2007

**DOE Contact:** Linda Champion, Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations, (850) 245-0406

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### **Executive Summary:**

HB 803 creates s. 409.1663, F.S., to expand the categories of state employees who are eligible to receive adoption benefits and to consolidate statutory provisions regarding water management district employees who are already eligible to receive adoption benefits. The act adds community college and county school district employees to the list of employees eligible to receive \$10,000 upon the adoption of a "special needs child" or \$5,000 upon the adoption of a child who is not a "special needs child" but whose permanent custody has been awarded to the state. State university employees are eligible for adoption benefits as well. Adoption benefits are to be paid in a lump sum and are subject to a specific appropriation. The Department of Children and Family Services (DCF) will be responsible for the administration of the adoption benefit program and has rulemaking authority. The Department of Management Services will transfer the Special Needs Adoption Incentives funding to the Department of Children and Family Services by a type two transfer.