



Sub. S.B. 30

127th General Assembly

(As Reported by S. Finance & Financial Institutions)

Sens. Kearney, Amstutz, Padgett, Gardner, Carey, D. Miller, Clancy, Roberts

BILL SUMMARY

- Permits the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to make adoption assistance loans to prospective adoptive parents.
- Makes appropriations for the loan program of \$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

The bill creates a program under which prospective adoptive parents may apply for, and the Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) may grant, state adoption assistance loans. The Director of Job and Family Services is required to adopt rules as necessary to implement this program, including rules that establish (1) a loan application form, (2) procedures and standards for reviewing and granting or denying loan applications, (3) conditions on the use of the loan, (4) loan repayment terms, (5) procedures for collection of loan arrearages, and (6) any monetary penalties for loan arrearages or improper use of loan funds. All such rules must be adopted in accordance with R.C. Chapter 119., the Administrative Procedure Act. (R.C. 5101.143(B).)

These loans are to be made with money in the State Adoption Assistance Loan Fund, which is created by the bill in the state treasury. The Fund is to consist of the following:

--All money appropriated or transferred to it. The bill requires the Director of Commerce to transfer \$500,000 of unclaimed funds to the Fund on July 1, 2007, and on July 1, 2008, irrespective of the allocation of unclaimed funds provided for under current law. (See R.C. 169.05, not in the bill.)

--All loan repayments or other money, such as interest and penalties, derived from the loans;

--All investment earnings of the Fund. (R.C. 5101.143(A) and Section 2.)

In reviewing a loan application, ODJFS is required to consider the financial need of the prospective adoptive parent. The amount loaned cannot exceed \$3,000 if the child being adopted resides in Ohio, or \$2,000 if the child being adopted does not reside in Ohio. Loan funds can be used only for specified expenses, including physician and hospital expenses incurred on behalf of the birth mother, expenses charged by the attorney or agency arranging the adoption, and expenses related to adopting from the public child welfare system. The bill applies to adoptions arranged by an attorney or by any public or private organization certified, licensed, or otherwise specially empowered by law or rule to place minors for adoption. (R.C. 3107.018.)

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	02-20-07
Reported, S. Finance & Financial Institutions	04-25-07

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