

HB 1946 -- ADOPTION SUBSIDIES

SPONSOR: Franz

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Special Committee on Family Services by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill changes the requirements regarding adoption subsidies that are granted to adoptive parents. Subsidies to cover any physical and/or mental conditions of the adopted child will no longer be subject to income restrictions on household incomes that are higher than 200% of the federal poverty level. The one-year restriction on the granting of a subsidy is also repealed.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that Missouri's laws are not compliant with federal regulations, and the bill will correct this by restoring the language that was repealed in Senate Bill 539 in 2005. If it is not corrected, Missouri will lose much needed federal funding to support the adoption program operated through the Children's Division within the Department of Social Services. The families who adopt through the division receive a subsidy each month. The average subsidy for a family ranges between \$250 and \$350 per month in addition to any MO HealthNet Program benefits.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Franz; and Children's Division, Department of Social Services.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.