FIRST REGULAR SESSION [TRULY AGREED TO AND FINALLY PASSED] SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 121

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

0797S.06T 2025

AN ACT

To repeal sections 135.600, 135.621, and 210.950, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof five new sections relating to vulnerable persons.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 135.600, 135.621, and 210.950, RSMo, are repealed and five new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 135.315, 135.600, 135.621, 210.950, and 453.650, to read as follows:

- 135.315. 1. This section and section 453.650 shall be known and may be cited as the "Zero-Cost Adoption Fund Act".
 - 2. As used in this section, the following terms mean:
 - (1) "Fund", the zero-cost adoption fund established under section 453.650;
- (2) "Qualified taxpayer", any individual, firm, partner in a firm, corporation, shareholder in an S corporation, or other entity doing business in this state, subject to the state income tax imposed under chapter 143, excluding the withholding tax imposed under sections 143.191 to 143.265, who makes a qualifying contribution to the fund;
- 9 (3) "Qualifying contribution", a donation of cash, including, but not limited to, 10 checks drawn on a banking institution located in the continental United States in U.S.
- 11 dollars, other cashier checks, or third-party checks exceeding ten thousand dollars;
- 12 money orders; payroll deductions; and electronic fund transfers, for the purpose of
- 13 claiming a tax credit under this section. This term shall not include stocks, bonds, other
- 14 marketable securities, or property;

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EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

- 15 (4) "Tax credit", a credit against the tax otherwise due under chapter 143, 16 excluding withholding tax imposed under sections 143.191 to 143.265, and chapter 153.
 - 3. For all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, a qualified taxpayer shall be allowed to claim a tax credit against the qualified taxpayer's state tax liability in an amount equal to one hundred percent of the qualified taxpayer's qualifying contribution to the fund made during the tax year for which the credit is claimed.
 - 4. The amount of the tax credit claimed shall not exceed fifty percent of the qualified taxpayer's state tax liability for the tax year for which the credit is claimed. The state treasurer shall certify the tax credit amount to the qualified taxpayer. A qualified taxpayer may carry the credit forward to any of such taxpayer's four subsequent tax years. All tax credits authorized under this section shall not be transferred, sold, assigned, or otherwise conveyed, and are not refundable.
 - 5. (1) The cumulative amount of tax credits that may be allocated to all qualified taxpayers in the first year of the program shall not exceed five million dollars. Such amount shall be annually adjusted by the department for inflation based on the consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for the Midwest Region, as defined and officially recorded by the United States Department of Labor or its successor, and such annual increase shall cease when the cumulative amount of tax credits that may be allocated to all qualified taxpayers per calendar year reaches seventy-five million dollars.
 - (2) The department shall establish a procedure by which, from the beginning of the calendar year until August first, the cumulative amount of tax credits that may be allocated under the program shall be allowed on a first-come, first-served basis among all qualified taxpayers.
 - (3) If a qualified taxpayer fails to use all, or some percentage to be determined by the department, of the taxpayer's allocated tax credits during this period, the department may reallocate these unused tax credits to those qualified taxpayers that have used all, or some percentage to be determined by the department, of the taxpayers' allocated tax credits during this period. The department may establish more than one period and reallocate more than once during each calendar year.
 - (4) The department shall establish the procedure described in this subsection in such a manner as to ensure that qualified taxpayers can claim all the tax credits possible up to the cumulative amount of tax credits available for the calendar year.
 - 6. The state treasurer shall provide a standardized format for a receipt to be issued to a qualified taxpayer to indicate the value of a qualifying contribution received. The department of revenue shall require a qualified taxpayer to provide a copy of this receipt if claiming the tax credit authorized by this section.

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- 52 7. The state treasurer and the department of revenue shall promulgate all 53 necessary rules and regulations for the administration of this section including, but not 54 limited to, rules relating to the verification of a taxpayer's qualifying contribution. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under 55 56 the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This 57 section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the 59 general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of 61 rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2025, shall be invalid and void. 62
 - 8. Under section 23.253 of the Missouri sunset act:
 - (1) The provisions of the new program authorized under this section shall automatically sunset on December thirty-first, six years after the effective date of this section unless reauthorized by an act of the general assembly;
 - (2) If such program is reauthorized, the program authorized under this section shall automatically sunset on December thirty-first, twelve years after the effective date of the reauthorization of this section;
 - (3) This section shall terminate on September first of the calendar year immediately following the calendar year in which the program authorized under this section is sunset; and
- 73 (4) Nothing in this subsection shall prevent a taxpayer from claiming a tax credit 74 properly issued before this program was sunset in a tax year after the program is sunset.
 - 135.600. 1. As used in this section, the following terms shall mean:
- 2 (1) "Contribution", a donation of cash, stock, bonds or other marketable securities, or 3 real property;
 - (2) "Maternity home", a residential facility located in this state:
- 5 (a) Established for the purpose of providing housing and assistance to pregnant 6 women who are carrying their pregnancies to term;
 - (b) That does not perform, induce, or refer for abortions and that does not hold itself out as performing, inducing, or referring for abortions;
 - (c) That provides services at no cost to clients; and
- 10 (d) That is exempt from income taxation under the United States Internal Revenue 11 Code;
- 12 (3) "State tax liability", in the case of a business taxpayer, any liability incurred by 13 such taxpayer pursuant to the provisions of chapter 143, chapter 147, chapter 148, and chapter 14 153, exclusive of the provisions relating to the withholding of tax as provided for in sections

- 15 143.191 to 143.265, and related provisions, and in the case of an individual taxpayer, any 16 liability incurred by such taxpayer pursuant to the provisions of chapter 143;
 - (4) "Taxpayer", a person, firm, a partner in a firm, corporation or a shareholder in an S corporation doing business in the state of Missouri and subject to the state income tax imposed by the provisions of chapter 143, including any [charitable] organization which is exempt from federal income tax and whose Missouri unrelated business taxable income, if any, would be subject to the state income tax imposed under chapter 143, or a corporation subject to the annual corporation franchise tax imposed by the provisions of chapter 147, or an insurance company paying an annual tax on its gross premium receipts in this state, or other financial institution paying taxes to the state of Missouri or any political subdivision of this state pursuant to the provisions of chapter 148, or an express company which pays an annual tax on its gross receipts in this state pursuant to chapter 153, or an individual subject to the state income tax imposed by the provisions of chapter 143.
 - 2. A taxpayer shall be allowed to claim a tax credit against the taxpayer's state tax liability, in an amount equal to fifty percent of the amount such taxpayer contributed to a maternity home for all fiscal years ending on or before June 30, 2022, and seventy percent of the amount such taxpayer contributed to a maternity home for all fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2022.
 - 3. The amount of the tax credit claimed shall not exceed the amount of the taxpayer's state tax liability for the tax year that the credit is claimed, and such taxpayer shall not be allowed to claim a tax credit in excess of [fifty] one hundred thousand dollars per tax year. However, any tax credit that cannot be claimed in the tax year the contribution was made may be carried over only to the next succeeding tax year. No tax credit issued under this section shall be assigned, transferred, or sold.
 - 4. Except for any excess credit which is carried over pursuant to subsection 3 of this section, a taxpayer shall not be allowed to claim a tax credit unless the total amount of such taxpayer's contribution or contributions to a maternity home or homes in such taxpayer's tax year has a value of at least one hundred dollars.
 - 5. The director of the department of social services shall determine, at least annually, which facilities in this state may be classified as maternity homes. The director of the department of social services may require of a facility seeking to be classified as a maternity home whatever information is reasonably necessary to make such a determination. The director of the department of social services shall classify a facility as a maternity home if such facility meets the definition set forth in subsection 1 of this section.
 - 6. The director of the department of social services shall establish a procedure by which a taxpayer can determine if a facility has been classified as a maternity home, and by which such taxpayer can then contribute to such maternity home and claim a tax credit.

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- Maternity homes shall be permitted to decline a contribution from a taxpayer. cumulative amount of tax credits which may be claimed by all the taxpayers contributing to 53 maternity homes in any one fiscal year shall not exceed two million dollars for all fiscal years ending on or before June 30, 2014, and two million five hundred thousand dollars for all 55 56 fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2014, and ending on or before June 30, 2019, and three million five hundred thousand dollars for all fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 57 2019, and ending on or before June 30, 2022. For all fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 59 2022, there shall be no limit imposed on the cumulative amount of tax credits that may be claimed by all taxpayers contributing to maternity homes under the provisions of this section. Tax credits shall be issued in the order contributions are received. If the amount of tax credits 61 redeemed in a fiscal year is less than the cumulative amount authorized under this subsection, 62 the difference shall be carried over to a subsequent fiscal year or years and shall be added to 64 the cumulative amount of tax credits that may be authorized in that fiscal year or years.
 - 7. For all fiscal years ending on or before June 30, 2022, the director of the department of social services shall establish a procedure by which, from the beginning of the fiscal year until some point in time later in the fiscal year to be determined by the director of the department of social services, the cumulative amount of tax credits are equally apportioned among all facilities classified as maternity homes. If a maternity home fails to use all, or some percentage to be determined by the director of the department of social services, of its apportioned tax credits during this predetermined period of time, the director of the department of social services may reapportion these unused tax credits to those maternity homes that have used all, or some percentage to be determined by the director of the department of social services, of their apportioned tax credits during this predetermined period of time. The director of the department of social services may establish more than one period of time and reapportion more than once during each fiscal year. To the maximum extent possible, the director of the department of social services shall establish the procedure described in this subsection in such a manner as to ensure that taxpayers can claim all the tax credits possible up to the cumulative amount of tax credits available for the fiscal year.
 - 8. This section shall become effective January 1, 2000, and shall apply to all tax years after December 31, 1999.
 - 135.621. 1. As used in this section, the following terms mean:
- 2 (1) "Contribution", a donation of cash, stock, bonds, other marketable securities, or 3 real property;
 - (2) "Department", the department of social services;
- 5 (3) "Diaper bank", **a national diaper bank or** a nonprofit entity located in this state 6 established and operating primarily for the purpose of collecting or purchasing disposable 7 diapers or other hygiene products for infants, children, or incontinent adults and that regularly

- 8 distributes such diapers or other hygiene products through two or more schools, health care 9 facilities, governmental agencies, or other nonprofit entities for eventual distribution to 10 individuals free of charge;
 - (4) "National diaper bank", a nonprofit entity located in this state that meets the following criteria:
 - (a) Collects, purchases, warehouses, and manages a community inventory of disposable diapers or other hygiene products for infants, children, or incontinent adults;
 - (b) Regularly distributes a consistent and reliable supply of such diapers or other hygiene products through two or more schools, health care facilities, governmental agencies, or other nonprofit entities for eventual distribution to individuals free of charge, with the intention of reducing diaper need; and
 - (c) Is a member of a national network organization serving all fifty states through which certification demonstrates nonprofit best practices, data-driven program design, and equitable distribution focused on best serving infants, children, and incontinent adults;
- **(5)** "Tax credit", a credit against the tax otherwise due under chapter 143, excluding withholding tax imposed under sections 143.191 to 143.265, or otherwise due under chapter 148 or 153;
 - [(5)] (6) "Taxpayer", a person, firm, partner in a firm, corporation, or shareholder in an S corporation doing business in the state of Missouri and subject to the state income tax imposed under chapter 143; an insurance company paying an annual tax on its gross premium receipts in this state; any other financial institution paying taxes to the state of Missouri or any political subdivision of this state under chapter 148; an express company that pays an annual tax on its gross receipts in this state under chapter 153; an individual subject to the state income tax under chapter 143; or any charitable organization that is exempt from federal income tax and whose Missouri unrelated business taxable income, if any, would be subject to the state income tax imposed under chapter 143.
 - 2. For all fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2019, a taxpayer shall be allowed to claim a tax credit against the taxpayer's state tax liability in an amount equal to fifty percent of the amount of such taxpayer's contributions to a diaper bank.
 - 3. The amount of the tax credit claimed shall not exceed the amount of the taxpayer's state tax liability for the tax year for which the credit is claimed, and such taxpayer shall not be allowed to claim a tax credit in excess of fifty thousand dollars per tax year. However, any tax credit that cannot be claimed in the tax year the contribution was made may be carried over only to the next subsequent tax year. No tax credit issued under this section shall be assigned, transferred, or sold.

- 44 4. Except for any excess credit that is carried over under subsection 3 of this section, 45 no taxpayer shall be allowed to claim a tax credit unless the taxpayer contributes at least one 46 hundred dollars to one or more diaper banks during the tax year for which the credit is 47 claimed.
- 5. The department shall determine, at least annually, which entities in this state qualify as diaper banks. The department may require of an entity seeking to be classified as a diaper bank any information which is reasonably necessary to make such a determination. The department shall classify an entity as a diaper bank if such entity satisfies the definition under subsection 1 of this section.
- 6. The department shall establish a procedure by which a taxpayer can determine if an entity has been classified as a diaper bank.
 - 7. Diaper banks may decline a contribution from a taxpayer.
 - 8. The cumulative amount of tax credits that may be claimed by all the taxpayers contributing to diaper banks in any one fiscal year shall not exceed five hundred thousand dollars. Tax credits shall be issued in the order contributions are received. If the amount of tax credits redeemed in a tax year is less than five hundred thousand dollars, the difference shall be added to the cumulative limit created under this subsection for the next fiscal year and carried over to subsequent fiscal years until claimed.
 - 9. The department shall establish a procedure by which, from the beginning of the fiscal year until some point in time later in the fiscal year to be determined by the department, the cumulative amount of tax credits are equally apportioned among all entities classified as diaper banks. If a diaper bank fails to use all, or some percentage to be determined by the department, of its apportioned tax credits during this predetermined period of time, the department may reapportion such unused tax credits to diaper banks that have used all, or some percentage to be determined by the department, of their apportioned tax credits during this predetermined period of time. The department may establish multiple periods each fiscal year and reapportion accordingly. To the maximum extent possible, the department shall establish the procedure described under this subsection in such a manner as to ensure that taxpayers can claim as many of the tax credits as possible, up to the cumulative limit created under subsection 8 of this section.
 - 10. Each diaper bank shall provide information to the department concerning the identity of each taxpayer making a contribution and the amount of the contribution. The department shall provide the information to the department of revenue. The department shall be subject to the confidentiality and penalty provisions of section 32.057 relating to the disclosure of tax information.
 - 11. Under section 23.253 of the Missouri sunset act:

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- 80 (1) The provisions of the program authorized under this section shall automatically 81 sunset on December thirty-first six years after August 28, [2018] 2025, unless reauthorized by 82 an act of the general assembly;
 - (2) If such program is reauthorized, the program authorized under this section shall automatically sunset on December thirty-first six years after the effective date of the reauthorization of this section;
 - (3) This section shall terminate on September first of the calendar year immediately following the calendar year in which the program authorized under this section is sunset; and
- (4) The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to limit or in any way impair the department's ability to issue tax credits authorized on or before the date the 90 program authorized under this section expires or a taxpayer's ability to redeem such tax credits.
- 210.950. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Safe Place for 2 Newborns Act of 2002". The purpose of this section is to protect newborn children from injury and death caused by abandonment by a parent, and to provide safe and secure 4 alternatives to such abandonment.
- 2. As used in this section, the following terms mean: 5
- 6 (1) "Hospital", as defined in section 197.020;
 - (2) "Maternity home", the same meaning as such term is defined in section 135.600;
- 8 (3) "Newborn safety incubator", a medical device used to maintain an optimal 9 environment for the care of a newborn infant;
 - (4) "Nonrelinquishing parent", the biological parent who does not leave a newborn infant in a newborn safety incubator or with any person listed in subsection 3 of this section in accordance with this section;
- 13 (5) "Pregnancy resource center", the same meaning as such term is defined in section 135.630; 14
- (6) "Relinquishing parent", the biological parent or person acting on such parent's 16 behalf who leaves a newborn infant in a newborn safety incubator or with any person listed in subsection 3 of this section in accordance with this section.
- 18 3. A parent shall not be prosecuted for a violation of section 568.030, 568.032, 568.045 or 568.050 for actions related to the voluntary relinquishment of a child up to [forty-19 five | ninety days old pursuant to this section if: 20
- 21 (1) Expressing intent not to return for the child, the parent voluntarily delivered the 22 child safely to a newborn safety incubator or to the physical custody of any of the following 23 persons:

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- 24 (a) An employee, agent, or member of the staff of any hospital, maternity home, or 25 pregnancy resource center in a health care provider position or on duty in a nonmedical paid 26 or volunteer position;
- 27 (b) A firefighter or emergency medical technician on duty in a paid position or on 28 duty in a volunteer position; or
 - (c) A law enforcement officer;
 - (2) The child was no more than [forty-five] ninety days old when delivered by the parent to the newborn safety incubator or to any person listed in subdivision (1) of this subsection; and
- 33 (3) The child has not been abused or neglected by the parent prior to such voluntary 34 delivery.
 - 4. A parent voluntarily relinquishing a child under this section shall not be required to provide any identifying information about the child or the parent. No person shall induce or coerce, or attempt to induce or coerce, a parent into revealing his or her identity. No officer, employee, or agent of this state or any political subdivision of this state shall attempt to locate or determine the identity of such parent. In addition, any person who obtains information on the relinquishing parent shall not disclose such information except to the following:
 - (1) A birth parent who has waived anonymity or the child's adoptive parent;
 - (2) The staff of the department of health and senior services, the department of social services, or any county health or social services agency or licensed child welfare agency that provides services to the child;
 - (3) A person performing juvenile court intake or dispositional services;
 - (4) The attending physician;
- (5) The child's foster parent or any other person who has physical custody of the 48 child:
- 49 (6) A juvenile court or other court of competent jurisdiction conducting proceedings relating to the child; 50
- 51 (7) The attorney representing the interests of the public in proceedings relating to the 52 child; and
 - (8) The attorney representing the interests of the child.
 - 5. A person listed in subdivision (1) of subsection 3 of this section shall, without a court order, take physical custody of a child the person reasonably believes to be no more than [forty-five] ninety days old and is delivered in accordance with this section by a person purporting to be the child's parent or is delivered in accordance with this section to a newborn safety incubator. If delivery of a newborn is made pursuant to this section in any place other than a hospital, the person taking physical custody of the child shall arrange for the immediate transportation of the child to the nearest hospital licensed pursuant to chapter 197.

- 6. The hospital, its employees, agents and medical staff shall perform treatment in accordance with the prevailing standard of care as necessary to protect the physical health or safety of the child. The hospital shall notify the children's division and the local juvenile officer upon receipt of a child pursuant to this section. The local juvenile officer shall immediately begin protective custody proceedings and request the child be made a ward of the court during the child's stay in the medical facility. Upon discharge of the child from the medical facility and pursuant to a protective custody order ordering custody of the child to the division, the children's division shall take physical custody of the child. The parent's voluntary delivery of the child in accordance with this section shall constitute the parent's implied consent to any such act and a voluntary relinquishment of such parent's parental rights.
- 7. In any termination of parental rights proceeding initiated after the relinquishment of a child pursuant to this section, the juvenile officer shall make public notice that a child has been relinquished, including the sex of the child, and the date and location of such relinquishment. Within thirty days of such public notice, the parent wishing to establish parental rights shall identify himself or herself to the court and state his or her intentions regarding the child. The court shall initiate proceedings to establish paternity, or if no person identifies himself as the father within thirty days, maternity. The juvenile officer shall make examination of the putative father registry established in section 192.016 to determine whether attempts have previously been made to preserve parental rights to the child. If such attempts have been made, the juvenile officer shall make reasonable efforts to provide notice of the abandonment of the child to such putative father.
- 8. (1) If a relinquishing parent of a child relinquishes custody of the child to a newborn safety incubator or to any person listed in subsection 3 of this section in accordance with this section and to preserve the parental rights of the nonrelinquishing parent, the nonrelinquishing parent shall take such steps necessary to establish parentage within thirty days after the public notice or specific notice provided in subsection 7 of this section.
- (2) If either parent fails to take steps to establish parentage within the thirty-day period specified in subdivision (1) of this subsection, either parent may have all of his or her rights terminated with respect to the child.
- (3) When either parent inquires at a hospital regarding a child whose custody was relinquished pursuant to this section, such facility shall refer such parent to the children's division and the juvenile court exercising jurisdiction over the child.
- 9. The persons listed in subdivision (1) of subsection 3 of this section shall be immune from civil, criminal, and administrative liability for accepting physical custody of a child pursuant to this section if such persons accept custody in good faith. Such immunity

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- shall not extend to any acts or omissions, including negligent or intentional acts or omissions, 98 occurring after the acceptance of such child.
 - 10. The children's division shall:
 - (1) Provide information and answer questions about the process established by this section on the statewide, toll-free telephone number maintained pursuant to section 210.145;
- 102 (2) Provide information to the public by way of pamphlets, brochures, or by other 103 ways to deliver information about the process established by this section.
 - 11. It shall be an affirmative defense to prosecution for a violation of sections 568.030, 568.032, 568.045, and 568.050 that a parent who is a defendant voluntarily relinquished a child no more than one year old under this section.
 - 12. Nothing in this section shall be construed as conflicting with section 210.125.
 - 13. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Safe Place for Newborns Fund", which shall consist of moneys appropriated by the general assembly from general revenue and any gifts, bequests, or donations. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer The fund shall be a dedicated fund and, upon may approve disbursements. appropriation, moneys in this fund shall be used solely for the installation of newborn safety incubators.
 - (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund.
 - (3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund.
 - 14. The state of Missouri shall provide matching moneys from the general revenue fund for the installation of newborn safety incubators. The total amount available to the fund from state sources under such a match program shall be up to ten thousand dollars for each newborn safety incubator installed.
- 15. The director of the department of health and senior services may promulgate all necessary rules and regulations for the administration of this section, including rules governing the specifications, installation, maintenance, and oversight of newborn safety 127 incubators. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is 129 created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies 130 with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the 132 general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of

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rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2021, shall be invalid 135 and void.

- 453.650. 1. There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Zero-Cost 2 Adoption Fund", which shall consist of moneys appropriated by the general assembly 3 and any gifts, bequests, and donations. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the 4 fund. In accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve 5 disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and, upon appropriation, moneys in this fund shall be used solely as provided in subsection 4 of this section. The fund shall be administered by the department of social services.
 - 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund.
- 3. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be 12 credited to the fund.
 - 4. Moneys in the fund shall be used, in order of descending priority, to:
- (1) Assist a resident of this state in paying for nonrecurring adoption expenses, 15 16 as defined in section 135.326, for each child adopted;
 - (2) Provide post-adoption assistance, including reimbursement of adoption costs paid in advance, counseling services, and other care that may be required;
 - (3) Promote adoption and recruit potential adoptive families; and
- 20 (4) Support community-based intervention methods to prevent children from 21 entering into foster care.
 - 5. In accordance with subsection 4 of this section, moneys in the fund may be used for either public or private adoptions; however, priority shall be given to adoptions with children in foster care.
- 6. The department of social services may promulgate all necessary rules and 26 regulations for the administration of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2025, shall be invalid and void.

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