

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

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HOUSE BILL 868

Short Title: Supp. Adoption Fund.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Berry; Buchanan and Davis.

Referred to: Welfare Reform and Human Resources.

April 12, 1995

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A FUND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO LICENSED PRIVATE CHILD-PLACING AGENCIES TO PLACE MORE HARD-TO-PLACE CHILDREN.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. Article 3 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Part to read:

"PART 4B. HARD-TO-PLACE CHILDREN'S SUPPLEMENTAL ADOPTION FUND.

"§ 143B-150-15. Hard-to-Place Children's Supplemental Adoption Fund; establishment; purpose.

(a) There is established in the Department of Human Resources a Hard-to-Place Children's Supplemental Adoption Fund, to be funded from existing funds, other than funds from lapsed salaries, available to the Department for foster care and adoption services.

(b) This Fund shall be used for service contracts with licensed private child-placing agencies to provide child placement services for hard-to-place children.

"§ 143B-150-16. Definitions.

For purposes of this Part:

- 1 (1) 'Hard-to-place children' means children who are in need of permanent,
2 secure, loving families who:
3 a. Are medically fragile;
4 b. Are developmentally delayed;
5 c. Have behavioral or emotional disorders;
6 d. Are neglected or abused;
7 e. Are members of a sibling group;
8 f. Are older children;
9 g. Are born affected by substance abuse or HIV involvement; or
10 h. Are minority children.
11 (2) 'Licensed private child-placing agencies' means agencies authorized by
12 statute or license pursuant to Article 1A of Chapter 131D of the General
13 Statutes to receive children for purposes of placement in adoptive
14 homes.

15 **"§ 143B-150-17. Use of Fund.**

16 Effective July 1, 1995, the Department of Human Resources shall contract with the
17 licensed private child-placing agencies to provide from the Fund funds for child
18 placement services for hard-to-place children. Upon the placement of the child in the
19 adoptive home, the contracts shall provide for payment for each separate service that was
20 provided. The contracts shall provide for the agency's use of a voucher system to present
21 costs. The contracts shall also provide that the agency match each payment received with
22 private dollars by the end of the fiscal year in which the payment was received in order to
23 be eligible to contract in the next fiscal year. The Department shall adopt rules
24 establishing the list of services that may be provided and the payment to be made for each
25 provided service. Each contract shall include the provision of at least the following
26 services:

- 27 (1) Preplacement services to birth parents;
28 (2) Adoptive family recruitment;
29 (3) Training and home assessment services;
30 (4) Services to the child, including home and living costs while the child is
31 in the agency's private care; and
32 (4) Postplacement and postlegal adoption services to implement and
33 support the placement of the child."

34 Sec. 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 1995.