HB 1367

1	A bill to be entitled				
2	An act relating to child care subsidies for foster				
3	parents; amending s. 409.145, F.S.; providing that an				
4	early education or child care subsidy be paid to				
5	certain caregivers; providing an effective date.				
6					
7	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:				
8					
9	Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 409.145, Florida				
10	Statutes, is amended to read:				
11	409.145 Care of children; quality parenting; "reasonable				
12	and prudent parent" standardThe child welfare system of the				
13	department shall operate as a coordinated community-based system				
14	of care which empowers all caregivers for children in foster				
15	care to provide quality parenting, including approving or				
16	disapproving a child's participation in activities based on the				
17	caregiver's assessment using the "reasonable and prudent parent"				
18	standard.				
19	(4) FOSTER CARE ROOM AND BOARD RATES; ADDITIONAL SUBSIDY				
20	FOR CERTAIN CAREGIVERS				
21	(a) Effective July 1, 2018, room and board rates shall be				
22	paid to foster parents as follows:				
23					
	Monthly Foster Care Rate				
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24				
	0-5 Years	6-12 Years	13-21 Years	
	Age	Age	Age	
25				
	\$457.95	\$469.68	\$549.74	
26				
27	(b) Each January, foster parents shall receive an annual			
28	cost of living increase. The department shall calculate the new			
29	room and board rate increase equal to the percentage change in			
30	the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S. City			
31	Average, All Items, not seasonally adjusted, or successor			
32	reports, for the preceding December compared to the prior			
33	December as initially reported by the United States Department			
34	of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The department shall make			
35	available the adjusted room and board rates annually.			
36	(c) Effective July 1, 2019, foster parents of level I			
37	family foster homes, as defined in s. 409.175(5)(a) shall			
38	receive a room and board rate of \$333.			
39	(d) Effective Ju	ly 1, 2019, the foste	r care room and board	
40	rate for level II fami	ly foster homes as de	fined in s.	
41	409.175(5)(a) shall be the same as the new rate established for			
42	family foster homes as of January 1, 2019.			
43	(e) Effective January 1, 2020, paragraph (b) shall only			
44	apply to level II through level V family foster homes, as			
45	defined in s. 409.175(5)(a).			

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(f) 46 The amount of the monthly foster care room and board 47 rate may be increased upon agreement among the department, the 48 community-based care lead agency, and the foster parent. 49 From July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019, community-(q) 50 based care lead agencies providing care under contract with the 51 department shall pay a supplemental room and board payment to 52 foster care parents of all family foster homes, on a per-child 53 basis, for providing independent life skills and normalcy 54 supports to children who are 13 through 17 years of age placed 55 in their care. The supplemental payment shall be paid monthly to 56 the foster care parents in addition to the current monthly room 57 and board rate payment. The supplemental monthly payment shall be based on 10 percent of the monthly room and board rate for 58 59 children 13 through 21 years of age as provided under this 60 section and adjusted annually. Effective July 1, 2019, such supplemental payments shall only be paid to foster parents of 61 62 level II through level V family foster homes.

63 In addition to the foster care room and board rate, a (h) 64 caregiver who is required under s. 39.604 to place a child in an 65 early education or child care program must receive a subsidy of 66 up to \$300 per month to pay the difference between the amount of 67 the subsidy provided by an early learning coalition and the full 68 cost of the services. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019. Section 2.

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