

1 AN ACT relating to adoption assistance.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 18A.202 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) The secretary ~~*shall*~~~~[is authorized to ]~~install and implement by administrative  
5 regulation work-related incentive programs for state employees. Such programs  
6 ~~*shall*~~~~[may]~~include, but need not be limited to ***the following:***~~[, ]~~

7 ***(a)*** An employee suggestion system whereby employees in the classified service  
8 and employees falling under KRS Chapter 16 may be recognized and  
9 rewarded for submitting suggestions that result in the improvement of state  
10 service or in the realization of financial savings by the state. Such programs  
11 may provide that when an employee suggestion has been adopted and resulted  
12 in a financial savings to the state, the employee who submitted the suggestion  
13 may be compensated for his service through a cash bonus in an amount to the  
14 lesser of ten percent (10%) of the amount saved or two thousand five hundred  
15 dollars (\$2,500); ***and***

16 ***(b)*** ***An adoption benefit program for state employees who finalize a legal***  
17 ***adoption procedure for the adoption of a child, other than the child of a***  
18 ***spouse. State employees shall be eligible to receive reimbursement for actual***  
19 ***costs associated with the adoption of a special needs child, as defined by***  
20 ***KRS 199.555(1), or any other child. The eligible state employee shall***  
21 ***receive:***

22 ***1. Up to six thousand dollars (\$6,000) in unreimbursed direct costs***  
23 ***related to the adoption of a special needs child; or***

24 ***2. Up to four thousand dollars (\$4,000) in unreimbursed direct costs***  
25 ***related to the adoption of any other child.***

26 (2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow KRS Chapter 16 employees to  
27 collect any fees or rewards for performance of acts in the line of duty as prohibited

1 in KRS 16.110.

2 ➔Section 2. KRS 36.477 is amended to read as follows:

- 3 (1) There is hereby established the Kentucky National Guard Adoption Assistance  
4 Program to be administered by the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs.
- 5 (2) Any member of the Kentucky National Guard who finalizes a legal adoption  
6 procedure for the adoption of a child, other than the child of a spouse, on or after  
7 July 12, 2012, shall be eligible to receive reimbursement from the military family  
8 assistance trust fund as provided in KRS 36.474 for actual costs associated with the  
9 adoption of the child, including a child with special needs. For the purposes of this  
10 section, a child with special needs means the same as defined in KRS 199.555(1).
- 11 (3) The eligible member of the Kentucky National Guard shall receive:
- 12 (a) Up to ~~six~~~~five~~ thousand dollars (\$6,000)~~(\$5,000)~~ in unreimbursed direct  
13 costs related to the adoption of a child with special needs; or
- 14 (b) Up to four~~three~~ thousand dollars (\$4,000)~~(\$3,000)~~ in unreimbursed direct  
15 costs related to the adoption of any other child.
- 16 (4) Unreimbursed direct costs related to the adoption of a child with special needs or  
17 other child shall include:
- 18 (a) Licensed adoption agency fees;
- 19 (b) Legal fees;
- 20 (c) Medical costs;
- 21 (d) Court costs; and
- 22 (e) Other fees or costs associated with the child adoption in accordance with state  
23 and federal law and after review and approval by the court at the finalization  
24 of the adoption.
- 25 (5) Application for financial assistance shall be made by submitting a completed  
26 Kentucky National Guard adoption assistance application to the adjutant general  
27 along with documentary evidence of:

- 1           (a) Finalization of the adoption; and
- 2           (b) Certification by the secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services
- 3                 that the adopted child is a child with special needs, if reimbursement for
- 4                 special needs adoption is sought.
- 5 (6) If both adoptive parents are members of the Kentucky National Guard, the
- 6           application for financial assistance shall be made jointly and the amount of
- 7           reimbursement shall be limited to that specified in subsection (2) of this section.
- 8 (7) Upon approval of the application for financial assistance, the adjutant general shall
- 9           dispense funds from the military family assistance trust fund to the eligible
- 10          applicant.
- 11 (8) The Department of Military Affairs shall promulgate administrative regulations in
- 12          accordance with KRS Chapter 13A to carry out the provisions of this section.