



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

**SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTIONS: EXPENSES**

Manufacturer's Bank Building, 12th Floor  
Lansing, Michigan 48909  
Phone: 517/373-6466

House Bill 6191  
Sponsor: Rep. Perry Bullard  
Committee: Judiciary

Complete to 11-8-90

**A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 6191 AS INTRODUCED 11-8-90**

The bill would amend the Social Welfare Act to provide for state payment of up to \$2,000 of nonrecurring expenses directly related to the adoption of a "special needs" child. A child with special needs would be one for whom the Office of Children and Youth Services (OCYS) determined all of the following: the child could not or should not be returned to the parents' home; because of ethnic background, age, medical condition, handicap, or other factor specified by the bill, the child could not be placed with adoptive parents without an adoption subsidy under existing provisions for adoption subsidies; and a reasonable but unsuccessful effort had been made to place the child with appropriate adoptive parents without providing an adoption subsidy (this effort would not be required when it would be against the best interests of the child because of factors such as the existence of significant emotional ties with prospective adoptive parents while in their care as a foster child).

The bill would require the OCYS to enter into an agreement with adoptive parents for the payment of nonrecurring adoption expenses incurred by or on behalf of the adoptive parents. The agreement could be a separate document or part of an agreement for payment of an adoption subsidy under existing provisions for such subsidies. The office would make payment according to the terms of the agreement. Except for eligible adoptions made before June 15, 1989, the agreement would have to be signed at or before entry of an order of adoption under the adoption code. Claims for payment would have to be made within two years after the order of adoption.

Recent adoptions that preceded the bill's enactment would be eligible for payment under the bill, if the order of adoption was entered between December 31, 1986 and June 15, 1989, or if the order was entered before January 1, 1987, but nonrecurring adoption expenses were paid after that date. The adoptive parents would have to enter into an agreement with the OCYS and file a claim for payment prior to December 15, 1990.

MCL 400.115G

House Bill 6191 (11-8-90)