



Adopted To Get Same Benefits As Biological Children

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Adopted children in Illinois will now receive the same benefits as biological children if a parent dies, according to new legislation approved by Gov. Rod Blagojevich Friday.

Sponsored by Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago) and Sen. Rickey R. Hendon (D-Chicago), House Bill 49 ensures that legally adopted children get the same benefits as biological children when a parent dies and that surviving children receive benefits from public pension plans, a release from the governor's office said.

Survivor's benefits are provided to children if a parent dies in the line of duty or after having served in a "pension eligible" position, the release said. The bill amends 15 pension codes for many public positions including General Assembly members, firefighters and police. Some codes previously denied benefits to adopted children.

"Parents adopt a child into their home and hearts with the same love and commitment that they give biological sons and daughters," the governor said in a statement. "It's only fair that the state respects the permanent commitment these families have made, by ensuring equal access to survivor's benefits for these children."

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