



Charlie Crist, Governor
George Sheldon, Secretary

Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008

(Publ. Law 110-351)

Overview

December 11, 2008

Don Winstead
Deputy Secretary

**Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self- Sufficient Families,
and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency.**

Florida Context

- **Title IV-E Waiver**
 - Increased flexibility
 - Fixed foster care funding
 - Adoption funding remains federal/state match
- Recent Trends in Adoptions and Out-of-Home Care
- Relative Caregiver Program

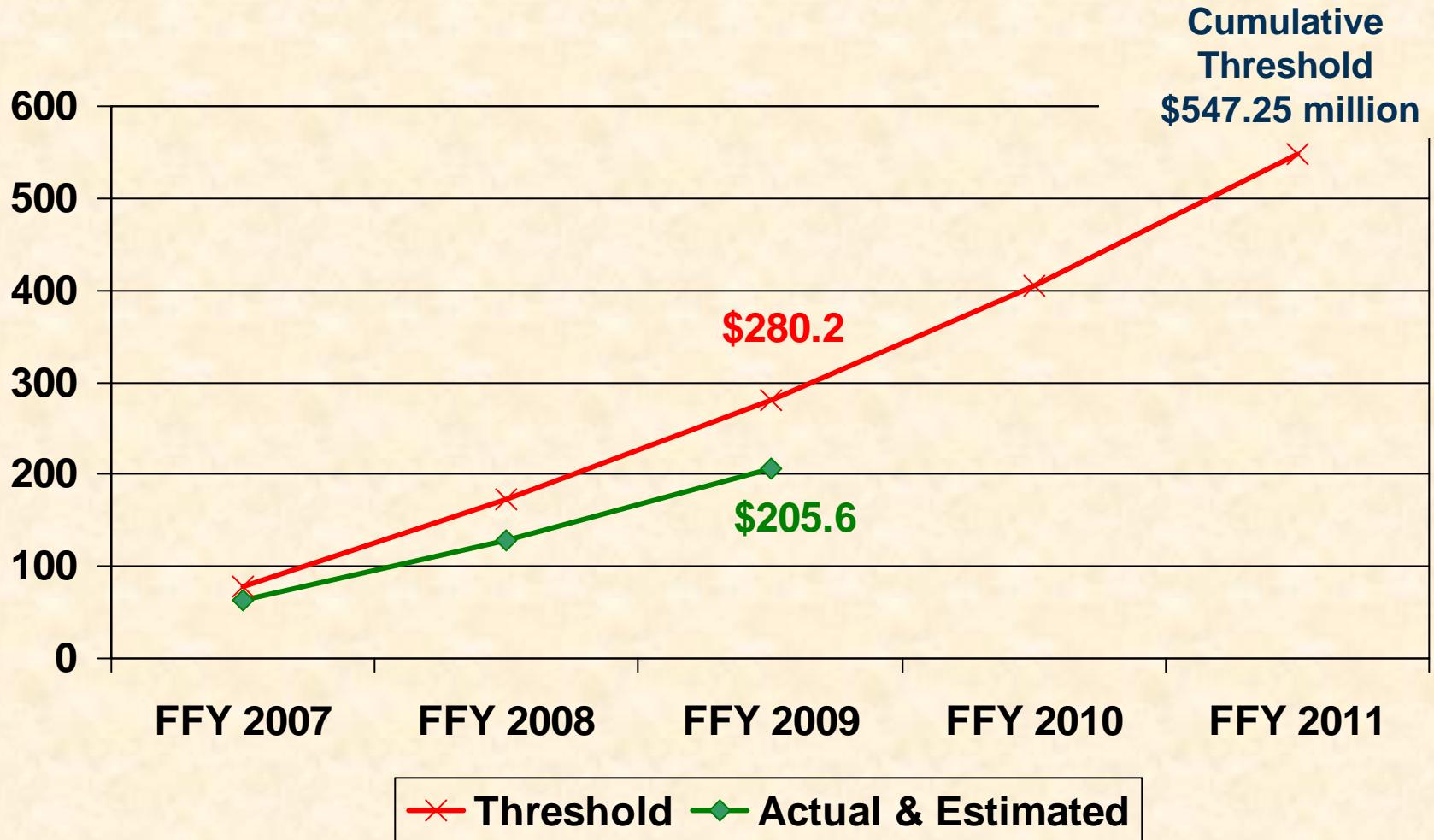
Federal Foster Care Funding Under the IV-E Waiver

In Millions



Adoption Assistance

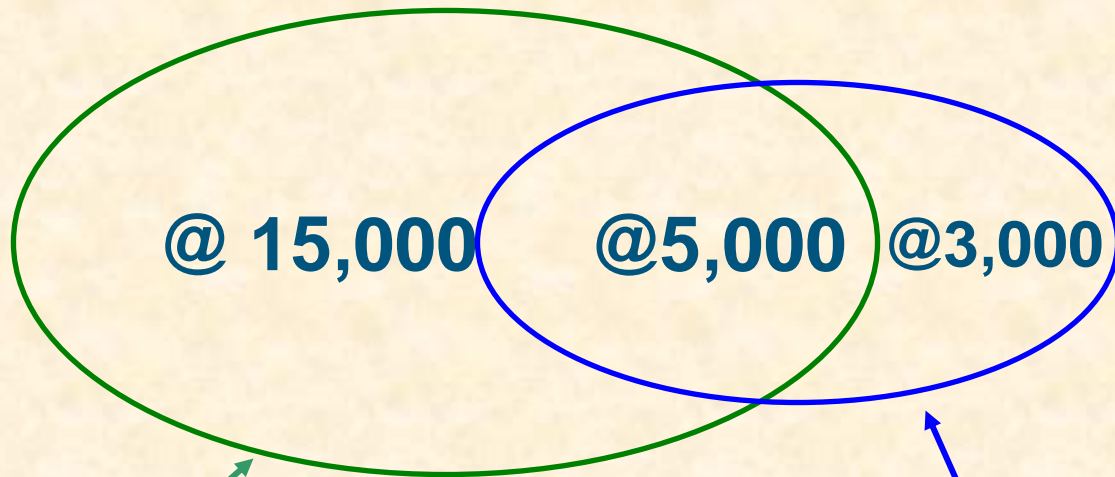
Cost Neutrality Threshold Under the IV-E Waiver



Costs and Benefits (Illustration Only)

	Average Payment	Cost to State	Benefit to Relative
Child Only TANF	\$130	\$130	\$130
Relative Caregiver	\$257	\$257	\$257
Licensed Foster Care (<i>typical</i>)	\$465	\$465	\$465
Adoption Assistance	\$417	\$240	\$417

Current Relative Caregiver Program

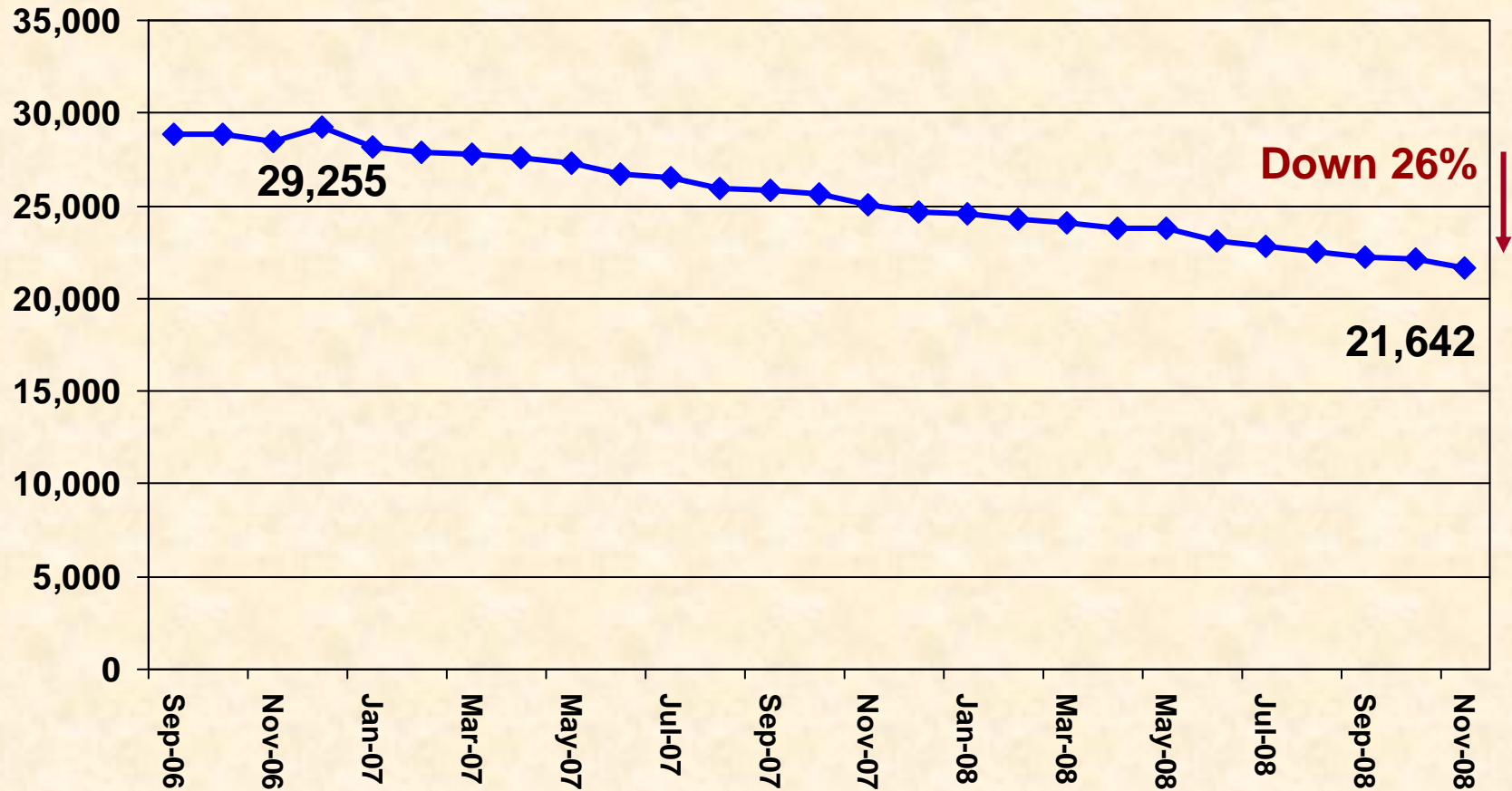


TANF Funded Relative Care
FLORIDA System
(About 20,000 Children)

Approved Relative Care
FSFN
(About 8,000 Children)

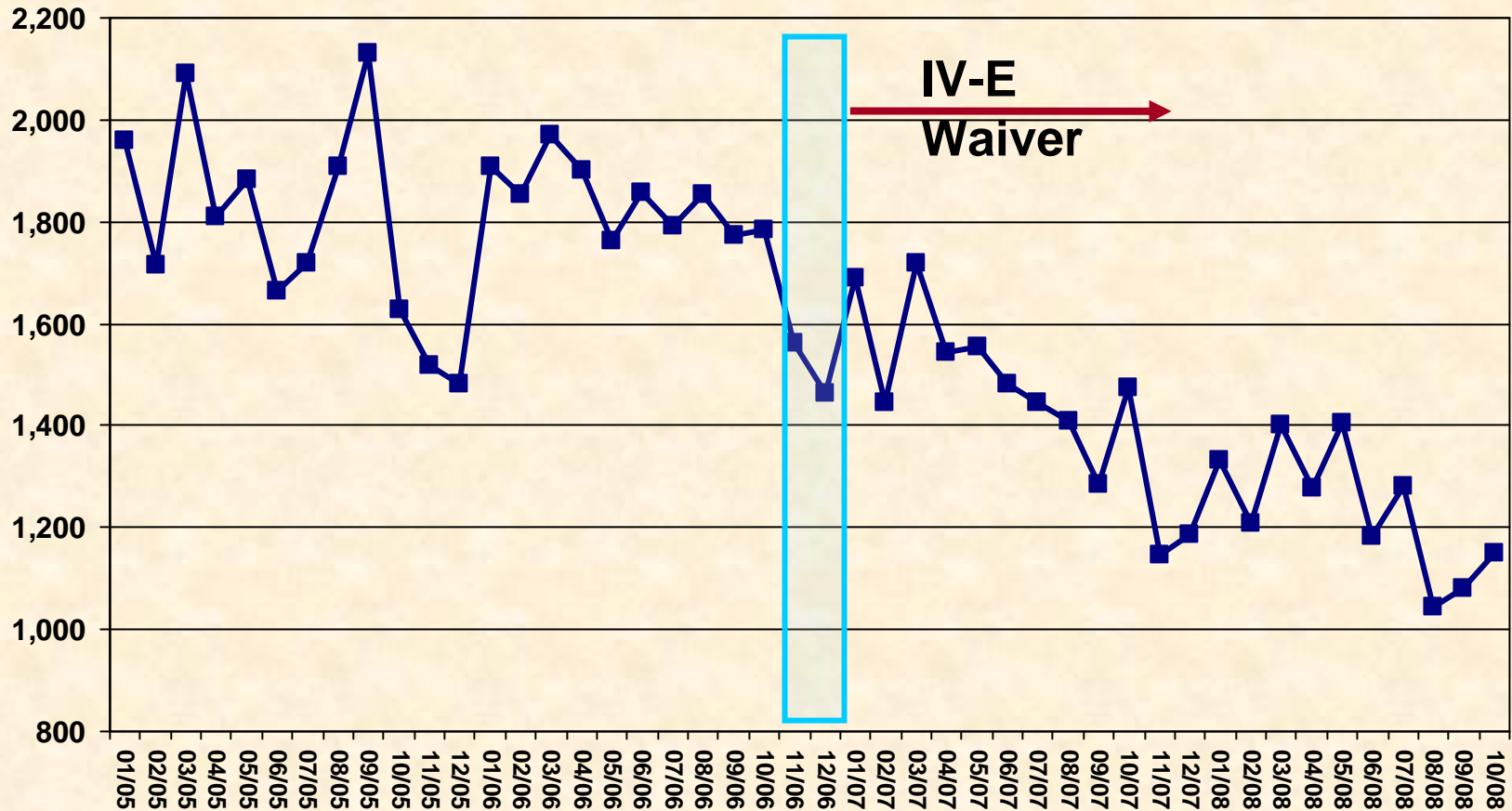
Children in Out-of-Home Care

September 30, 2006 to November 30, 2008



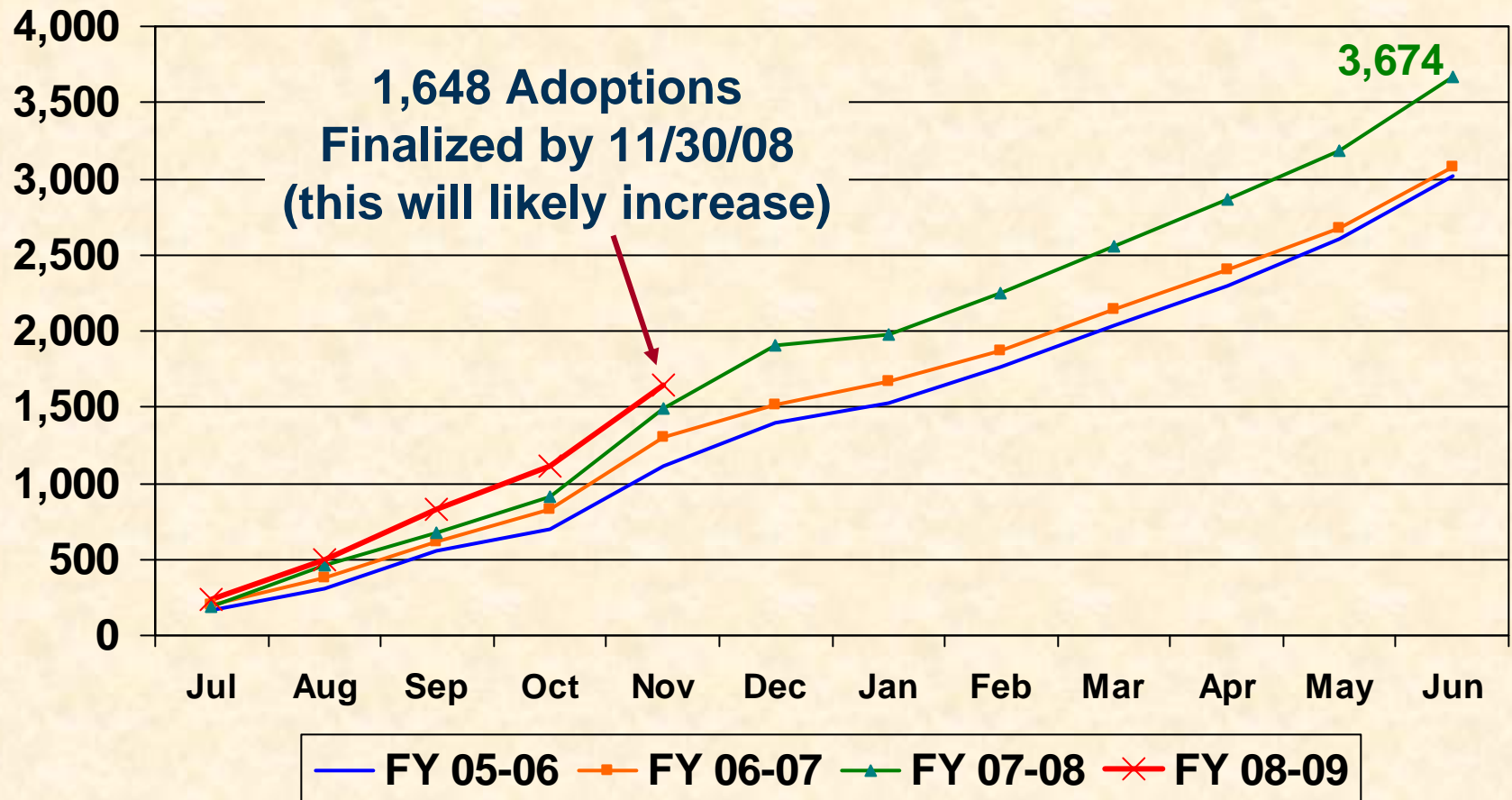
Entries into Out-of-Home Care

Jan. 2005 to Oct. 2008



Adoptions Finalized

Cumulative by State Fiscal Year



Major Provisions

- **Financing and Requirements**
 - Financing Changes
 - New Requirements
- **New and Expanded Assistance or Activities for Permanence**
 - Permanence via Family Connections
 - Permanence via Adoption
- **Support for Older Foster Youth and Transition to Independent Living**
 - Option to Extend Support for Youth Remaining in Care to Age 21
 - New Transition Planning Requirement
 - Option to Extend Support for Youth Leaving Care for Permanent Home After Reaching Age 16
 - Services For Youth Leaving Foster Care After Reaching Age 16
- **Well-Being of Children in Foster Care**
 - Education Stability and Enrollment
 - Health Care Coordination and Oversight
- **Direct Federal Support to Tribal Programs**

Title I — Connecting and Supporting Relative Caregivers

- **Section 101:** Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment For Children
- **Section 102:** Family Connection Grants
- **Section 103:** Notification of Relatives
- **Section 104:** Licensing Standards for Relatives
- **Section 105:** Authority for Comparisons and Disclosures of Information in the Federal Parent Locator Service for Child Welfare, Foster Care, and Adoption Assistance Program Purposes

Title II — Improving Outcomes for Children in Foster Care

- **Section 201:** State Option for Children in Foster Care, and Certain Children in Adoptive or Guardianship Placement, After Attaining Age 18
- **Section 202:** Transition Plan for Children Aging Out of Foster Care
- **Section 203:** Short-term Training for Child Welfare Agencies, Relative Guardians, and Court Personnel
- **Section 204:** Educational Stability
- **Section 205:** Health Oversight and Coordination Plan
- **Section 206:** Sibling Placement

Title III — Tribal Foster Care and Adoption Access

- **Section 301:** Equitable Access for Foster Care and Adoption Services for Indian Children
- **Section 302:** Technical Assistance and Implementation

Title IV — Improvement of Incentives for Adoption

- **Section 401:** Adoption Incentives Program
- **Section 402:** Promotion of Adoption of Children with Special Needs
- **Section 403:** Information on Adoption Tax Credit

Title V — Clarification of Uniform Definition of Child and Other Provisions

- **Section 501:** Clarification of Uniform Definition of Child
- **Section 502:** Investment of Operating Cash
- **Section 503:** No Federal Funding to Unlawfully Present Individuals

Title VI — Effective Date

Unless a different date is stipulated in the Foster Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, the bill makes the **effective date** of the amendments the **date of the bill's enactment**; for any state, permit a **time-limited exception to the effective date** of any requirement added by this bill (under Title IV-B or Title IV-E) if HHS determines that the state must enact legislation (other than legislation to appropriate funds) to comply with a new requirement.