

SENATE BILL NO. 857

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MAY.

3740S.01H

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

AN ACT

To amend chapter 161, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to literacy of elementary school students.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 161, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto
2 one new section, to be known as section 161.239, to read as
3 follows:

161.239. 1. For purposes of this section, the
2 following terms mean:

3 (1) "Department", the department of elementary and
4 secondary education;

5 (2) "Local educational agency", as such term is
6 defined in section 161.1085.

7 2. There is hereby created in the state treasury the
8 "Elementary Literacy Fund", which shall consist of moneys
9 appropriated by the general assembly from general revenue
10 and any gifts, bequests, or donations. The state treasurer
11 shall be custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections
12 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve
13 disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and money
14 in the fund shall be used solely for the purpose of
15 providing grants to local educational agencies for home
16 reading programs as provided in this section.
17 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the
18 contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the

19 biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general
20 revenue fund. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in
21 the fund in the same manner as other funds are invested.
22 Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be
23 credited to the fund.

24 3. The general assembly shall annually appropriate to
25 the fund an amount not to exceed five million dollars. The
26 department shall develop a process by which a local
27 educational agency may apply for a grant from the fund for
28 an eligible home reading program that meets the conditions
29 set forth in subsection 4 of this section, provided that the
30 local educational agency shall match any such funds if such
31 funds are granted.

32 4. A home reading program shall be considered eligible
33 for a grant from the fund if the program is provided by a
34 nonprofit organization that meets all of the following
35 conditions:

36 (1) The program's objective is to deliver an evidence-
37 based reading program consisting of books that are
38 individually mailed to the residences of students in
39 kindergarten to grade five following the selection of such
40 books by such students, provided that each student shall be
41 allowed to select books that he or she can read on his or
42 her own with ease;

43 (2) The program incorporates at least weekly phone
44 calls, texts, or application notifications in multiple
45 languages to the parent or guardian of each participating
46 student to increase parental and family engagement
47 throughout the duration of the program;

48 (3) The program provides at least six, but not more
49 than nine, student-selected new books that students are
50 allowed to keep;

51 (4) The program builds on pedagogical and literacy
52 principles to improve reading comprehension with student
53 exercises;

54 (5) The program includes a customizable portal that
55 generates individualized data reports for analysis of
56 student progress;

57 (6) The program collects, disaggregates, and
58 distributes detailed data on all metrics of the program,
59 such as parental engagement, books read, and demographic
60 data;

61 (7) The program provides summary data to the general
62 assembly and to the department for all students served by
63 the program;

64 (8) The program provider agrees to secure the required
65 matching funds from the local educational agency, to
66 maintain verification of the receipt of such matching funds,
67 and to provide such verification in the event of an audit;
68 and

69 (9) The combined total cost of the program, including
70 matching funds from the local educational agency, does not
71 exceed sixty dollars per student per semester.

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