

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1097 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY COMITTA, KANE, COLLETT, SANTARSIERO, FONTANA,
HAYWOOD, COSTA AND CAPPELLETTI, MARCH 11, 2024

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, MARCH 11, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," establishing the Statewide
6 Imagination Library Program and the Imagination Library of
7 Pennsylvania Restricted Account; and imposing duties on the
8 Department of Education.

9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
10 hereby enacts as follows:

11 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
12 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding an
13 article to read:

14 ARTICLE XXIII-B

15 STATEWIDE IMAGINATION LIBRARY PROGRAM

16 Section 2301-B. Definitions.

17 The following words and phrases when used in this article
18 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
19 context clearly indicates otherwise:

20 "Account." The Imagination Library of Pennsylvania
21 Restricted Account established under section 2302-B.

1 "Department." The Department of Education of the
2 Commonwealth.

3 "Eligible child." A child who resides within this
4 Commonwealth and is under five years of age.

5 "Program." The Statewide Imagination Library Program
6 established under section 2303-B.

7 "Qualified local entity." Any existing or new local Dolly
8 Parton's Imagination Library program partner.

9 Section 2302-B. Imagination Library of Pennsylvania Restricted
10 Account.

11 (a) Establishment.--The Imagination Library of Pennsylvania
12 Restricted Account is established as a restricted account in the
13 General Fund. Money in the account is appropriated to the
14 department on a continuing basis for the purposes of this
15 article.

16 (b) Funding.--The State Treasurer may accept appropriations,
17 transfers, gifts, grants, donations, legacies or any other
18 revenues, including allowable Federal funds, for deposit into
19 the account.

20 (c) Allocation.--Money from the account shall be allocated
21 to qualified local entities that agree to a dollar-for-dollar
22 match for purposes of the program. The department may waive the
23 dollar-for-dollar match requirement for a qualified local entity
24 on a case-by-case basis to prevent undue financial hardship.

25 (d) Money shall not lapse.--Money remaining in the account
26 at the close of the fiscal year shall not lapse but shall be
27 carried forward to the next fiscal year and be continuously
28 appropriated only for the purposes specified in this article.

29 (e) Interest.--Any interest that accrues in the account
30 shall remain in the account.

1 Section 2303-B. Statewide Imagination Library Program.

2 (a) Establishment and purpose.--The Statewide Imagination
3 Library Program is established in the department to promote the
4 development of a comprehensive Statewide initiative to encourage
5 children from birth to five years of age to develop a love of
6 reading and learning.

7 (b) Providing books.--Qualified local entities shall use
8 allocated money to provide one age-appropriate book to each
9 registered child from birth to five years of age in
10 participating counties. Books shall be sent monthly to each
11 child's home at no cost to families.

12 (c) Matching.--In accordance with section 2302-B(c), the
13 department, if money is available, shall match the amount
14 required of local programs participating in the program.

15 Section 2304-B. Duties of department.

16 (a) Administration.--The department shall administer the
17 program and shall coordinate with a nonprofit entity, qualified
18 under 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3) (relating to exemption from tax on
19 corporations, certain trusts, etc.), and organized solely to
20 promote and encourage reading by the children of this
21 Commonwealth, for the purpose of implementing this article.

22 (b) Oversight.--The department shall provide oversight to
23 the nonprofit entity in subsection (a) to do all of the
24 following:

25 (1) Manage the daily operations of the program.

26 (2) Promote the Statewide development of local Dolly
27 Parton's Imagination Library programs.

28 (3) Advance and strengthen local Dolly Parton's
29 Imagination Library programs.

30 (4) Develop community engagement initiatives.

1 (5) Develop, promote and coordinate a public awareness
2 campaign to make donors aware of the opportunity to donate to
3 the affiliate programs and make the public aware of the
4 opportunity to register eligible children to receive books
5 through the program.

6 (6) Administer the local match requirement and
7 coordinate the collection and remittance of local program
8 costs for books and mailing.

9 (7) Develop Statewide marketing and communication plans.

10 (8) Solicit donations, gifts and other funding to
11 financially support local Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
12 programs.

13 (c) Regulations.--The department may promulgate regulations
14 as needed for the administration of the program.

15 Section 2305-B. Report.

16 The department shall prepare and submit to the General
17 Assembly, no later than January 1, 2025, and each January 1
18 thereafter, a report that includes, but is not limited to, the
19 following:

20 (1) The deposits made to, and expenditures made from,
21 the account.

22 (2) Whether the department waived any local match
23 requirements.

24 (3) How many local programs exist, where the programs
25 are located and which entity or organization serves as the
26 local partner.

27 (4) How many children are enrolled in a program and how
28 many books those children have received.

29 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.