

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 412

BY REPRESENTATIVES WHITE, AMEDEE, BRASS, EMERSON, FREIBERG,
GAROFALO, JEFFERSON, AND PHELPS

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:2508, relative to early childhood literacy; to establish an early childhood
3 literacy program; to provide for program purposes; to provide for program
4 administration by the Louisiana Educational Television Authority; to create a special
5 fund in the state treasury for the purpose of funding the program; to provide for
6 effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:2508 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §2508. Imagination Library of Louisiana and fund; creation; administration

10 A. The Imagination Library of Louisiana is hereby established under the
11 administration of the Louisiana Educational Television Authority, referred to in this
12 Section as the "authority", for the purpose of developing, implementing, promoting,
13 and fostering a comprehensive statewide initiative for encouraging children from
14 birth to five years of age to develop a love of reading and learning.

15 B.(1) Subject to appropriation of funds by the legislature as provided in
16 Subsection C of this Section, the authority shall:

17 (a) Promote the statewide development of local Dolly Parton's Imagination
18 Library programs.

19 (b) Advance and strengthen local Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
20 programs with the goal of increasing enrollment.

21 (c) Develop community engagement.

1 (d) Develop, promote, and coordinate a public awareness campaign to make
2 the public aware of the opportunity to register children to receive books through the
3 program.

4 (e) Receive monies appropriated to it for administration of the program.

5 (f) Administer any local match requirements and coordinate the collection
6 and remittance of local program costs. The authority may waive match requirements
7 on a case-by-case basis to prevent undue financial hardship.

8 (g) Provide an annual report to the governor and the legislature that includes
9 all monies received by and expenditures made from the fund established in
10 Subsection C of this Section; whether any local match requirements were waived;
11 the number of local programs participating annually, including which entity serves
12 as the local partner; how many children are enrolled in the program; and the number
13 of books sent to enrolled children.

14 (2) The authority may work collaboratively with an organization that
15 provides age-appropriate books to children ages birth to five years old on a monthly
16 basis in the implementation of the program.

17 C.(1) The Imagination Library of Louisiana Fund, referred to in this Section
18 as the "fund", is hereby created within the state treasury for the purpose of providing
19 funding for the program.

20 (2) Monies in the fund are subject to appropriation by the legislature and
21 available exclusively for use by the authority for purposes of the program.

22 (3) All monies appropriated by the legislature or designated to the fund
23 through donation, gift, grant, or any other revenue shall be deposited in the fund.
24 Monies in the fund shall be invested in the same manner as monies are invested in
25 the state general fund. Interest earned on investment of monies in the fund shall be
26 credited to the fund.

27 (4) All unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the
28 fiscal year shall remain in the fund and be available for appropriation the next fiscal
29 year. The monies shall be invested by the treasurer in the same manner as monies
30 in the state general fund, and all interest earned shall be credited to the fund

1 following compliance with the requirements of Article VII, Section 9(B) of the
2 Constitution of Louisiana relative to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund.

3 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
4 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
5 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
6 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
7 effective on the day following such approval.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____