

---

## DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

---

HB 85 Original

2021 Regular Session

McKnight

**Abstract:** Creates a literacy program for certain public school students in kindergarten through 5th grade.

Proposed law establishes the Steve Carter Literacy Program for eligible students. Defines "eligible student" as a public school student who is in kindergarten or the first, second, or third grade and who reads below grade level or is at risk for reading difficulties according to a literacy screener, a student who is in the fourth or fifth grade and who scored below mastery in English language arts on the state assessment in the prior school year, or a student in these grades recommended by an English teacher. Gives priority to the lowest performing economically disadvantaged students.

Proposed law provides for payments of up to \$500 per student per year for eligible services intended to improve reading or literacy skills.

Proposed law requires the Dept. of Education to administer the program pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education. Further requires the department to:

- (1) Evaluate students for eligibility.
- (2) Develop an application process and accept applications.
- (3) Evaluate service providers for eligibility.
- (4) Remit payments to service providers for services rendered.
- (5) Annually report to the House and Senate education committees on the program.

Proposed law requires the department to notify school governing authorities and the governing authorities to notify the parents or legal guardians of eligible students of the program and the application process.

Proposed law requires that program payments be made only from money appropriated for such purpose.

(Adds R.S. 17:4032.1)