

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 852

BY REPRESENTATIVES SCHLEGEL, BRASS, FREEMAN, FREIBERG, HARRIS,
HUGHES, JEFFERSON, MCKNIGHT, PRESSLY, AND TARVER

STUDENTS: Creates a book delivery program for certain public school students

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part IV of Chapter 43 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
3 comprised of R.S. 17:4033.1, relative to providing books and reading materials for
4 certain public school students; to establish the Reading Enrichment and Academic
5 Deliverables Program; to provide for student eligibility, program administration, and
6 funding; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. Part IV of Chapter 43 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of
9 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:4033.1, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 PART IV. R.E.A.D. PROGRAM

11 §4033.1. R.E.A.D. Program; establishment; student eligibility; administration;
12 funding

13 A. The R.E.A.D. (Reading Enrichment and Academic Deliverables)
14 Program, referred to in this Part as the "program", is hereby established for the
15 purpose of providing books and other reading materials to eligible students.

16 B. A public school student who falls into one of the following categories is
17 eligible to participate in the program:

18 (1) He is in pre-kindergarten and does not score satisfactorily on the literacy
19 section of the Early Childhood Assessment administered by the state Department of
20 Education.

1 (2) He is in kindergarten or the first, second, or third grade and reads below
2 grade level according to the results of a literacy assessment.

3 (3) He is in the fourth or fifth grade and scored below mastery in English
4 language arts on the state assessment administered the prior school year.

5 (4) His eligibility cannot be determined according to the measures provided
6 in Paragraphs (1) through (3) of this Subsection due to the lack of literacy assessment
7 or state assessment results but he is recommended by his English language arts
8 teacher for the participation in the program due to the student's reading difficulties.

9 C. The department shall administer and provide for the implementation of
10 the program. In administering the program, the department shall:

11 (1) Require public school governing authorities to establish a schedule for
12 participating students to receive books for the schools under their jurisdiction. The
13 schedule may constitute distribution of three books once a quarter.

14 (2) Publish on its website information about the program.

15 (3) Develop online support materials that may assist parents in developing
16 their child's literacy skills.

17 (4) Develop a list of high-quality, age-appropriate books and other reading
18 materials encompassing diverse subjects and genres for each grade level to be mailed
19 to students in the program, ensuring the books and other reading materials exclude
20 any material harmful to minors as provided for in R.S. 14:91.11.

21 (5) Support local implementation of the program by providing marketing
22 materials to schools and school districts to assist with public awareness campaigns.

23 (6) Report by October thirtieth annually on its website the number of
24 students participating in the program from each school or school district.

25 D. A student shall be excluded from the program upon the written request
26 of his parent or legal guardian.

27 E.(1) The provisions of this Section shall be implemented to the extent that
28 the legislature appropriates funds for this purpose.

- 1 (2) The department may make adjustments to the program as necessary due
2 to the availability of funds.
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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 852 Engrossed

2022 Regular Session

Schlegel

Abstract: Creates a book delivery program for certain public school students.

Proposed law creates a program for certain public school students in pre-kindergarten through the 5th grade in which books and other reading materials are sent to the students' homes.

Proposed law provides that a public school student who is in one of the following categories is eligible for the program:

- (1) Enrolled in pre-kindergarten and does not score satisfactorily on the literacy section of the Early Childhood Assessment administered by the state Dept. of Education (DOE).
- (2) Enrolled in kindergarten or the first, second, or third grade and reads below grade level or is at risk for reading difficulties according to a literacy assessment.
- (3) Enrolled in the fourth or fifth grade and scored below mastery in English language arts on the state assessment in the prior school year.
- (4) Enrolled in kindergarten through the 5th grade, lacks a literacy or English language arts assessment result, and is recommended for the program by an English teacher.

Proposed law requires the DOE to administer the program. Further requires the department to:

- (1) Publish information about the program on the department's website.
- (2) Provide marketing materials to schools and school districts.
- (3) Develop a list of books for each grade level.
- (4) Annually report the number of participating students on its website.

Proposed law requires public school governing authorities to establish a schedule for participating students to receive books.

Proposed law provides that the program shall be implemented based on the appropriation of funds. Authorizes DOE to make adjustments to the program based on the availability of funds.

(Adds R.S. 17:4033.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Specify books shall be age-appropriate and exclude any material harmful to minors.
2. Add certain pre-kindergarten students to the list of eligible students for the program.
3. Relative to parental election for their child's participation in the program, change from an opt-in to an opt-out.