

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 852

BY REPRESENTATIVES SCHLEGEL, AMEDEE, BACALA, BRASS, CARRIER, CREWS, DAVIS, DUBUISSON, ECHOLS, EDMONDS, FIRMENT, FISHER, FONTENOT, FREEMAN, FREIBERG, GAROFALO, GLOVER, GREEN, HARRIS, HORTON, HUGHES, ILLG, IVEY, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, MIKE JOHNSON, LAFLEUR, LYONS, MARCELLE, MCKNIGHT, DUSTIN MILLER, NEWELL, PRESSLY, ROMERO, SCHEXNAYDER, SEABAUGH, SELDERS, STAGNI, TARVER, VILLIO, AND WHITE

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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3                   (2) The department may make adjustments to the program as necessary due  
4                   to the availability of funds.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_