

ACT No. 395

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.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____