

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 412

BY REPRESENTATIVE WHITE

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

EARLY CHILDHOOD: Establishes a program to be administered by the La. Educational Television Authority for the purpose of encouraging reading for young children and creates a fund within the state treasury for the purpose of funding the program

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; and to provide for
6 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. Louisiana Imagination Library Program and Fund; creation; administration

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

15 B.(1) The authority shall:

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

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

1 (c) Develop community engagement.

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

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

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

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

15 (2) The authority may work collaboratively with Friends of Louisiana Public
16 Broadcasting in the implementation of the program.

17 C.(1) The Louisiana Imagination Library Fund, referred to in this Section as
18 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 unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the
23 fiscal year shall remain in the fund and be available for appropriation the next fiscal
24 year. The monies shall be invested by the treasurer in the same manner as monies
25 in the state general fund, and all interest earned shall be credited to the fund
26 following compliance with the requirements of Article VII, Section 9(B) of the
27 Constitution of Louisiana relative to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund.

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 412 Original

2023 Regular Session

White

Abstract: Establishes the La. Imagination Library Program under the administration of the La. Educational Television Authority (LETA) for the purpose of encouraging reading and learning for young children and creates a fund for funding the program.

Proposed law establishes the La. Imagination Library Program under the administration of LETA. Requires LETA to:

- (1) Promote the statewide development of local Dolly Parton's Imagination Library programs.
- (2) Advance and strengthen local Dolly Parton's Imagination Library programs with the goal of increasing enrollment.
- (3) Develop community engagement.
- (4) Develop a public awareness campaign.
- (5) Receive monies appropriated to it for program administration.
- (6) Administer any local match requirements, which may be waived on a case-by-case basis, and coordinate the collection and remittance of local program costs.
- (7) Provide an annual report to the governor and the legislature about the program.

Proposed law authorizes LETA to work collaboratively with Friends of La. Public Broadcasting in implementing the program.

Proposed law creates the La. Imagination Library Fund within the state for the purpose of funding the program. Provides that monies in the fund are subject to appropriation and available exclusively for use by the authority for the program.

(Adds R.S. 17:2508)