

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 412

BY REPRESENTATIVES WHITE, AMEDEE, BRASS, EMERSON, FREIBERG,
JEFFERSON, AND PHELPS

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; to provide for
6 effectiveness; and to provide for 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. Imagination Library of Louisiana and fund; creation; administration

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

15 B.(1) Subject to appropriation of funds by the legislature as provided in
16 Subsection C of this Section, the authority shall:

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

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

3 (c) Develop community engagement.

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

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

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

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

17 (2) The authority may work collaboratively with an organization that
18 provides age-appropriate books to children ages birth to five years old on a monthly
19 basis in the implementation of the program.

20 C.(1) The Imagination Library of Louisiana Fund, referred to in this Section
21 as the "fund", is hereby created within the state treasury for the purpose of providing
22 funding for the program.

23 (2) Monies in the fund are subject to appropriation by the legislature and
24 available exclusively for use by the authority for purposes of the program.

25 (3) All monies appropriated by the legislature or designated to the fund
26 through donation, gift, grant, or any other revenue shall be deposited in the fund.
27 Monies in the fund shall be invested in the same manner as monies are invested in
28 the state general fund. Interest earned on investment of monies in the fund shall be
29 credited to the fund.

1 (4) All unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the
 2 fiscal year shall remain in the fund and be available for appropriation the next fiscal
 3 year. The monies shall be invested by the treasurer in the same manner as monies
 4 in the state general fund, and all interest earned shall be credited to the fund
 5 following compliance with the requirements of Article VII, Section 9(B) of the
 6 Constitution of Louisiana relative to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund.

7 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 8 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 9 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 10 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 11 effective on the day following such approval.

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 Engrossed

2023 Regular Session

White

Abstract: Establishes the Imagination Library of La. 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 Imagination Library of La. under the administration of LETA. Subject to the appropriation of funds by the legislature, requires LETA to promote the statewide development of local Dolly Parton's Imagination Library programs; advance and strengthen local Dolly Parton's Imagination Library programs with the goal of increasing enrollment; develop community engagement and a public awareness campaign; receive monies appropriated to it for program administration; 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; and provide an annual program report to the governor and legislature.

Proposed law authorizes LETA to work collaboratively with an organization that provides age-appropriate books to children ages birth to five years old on a monthly basis in implementing the program.

Proposed law creates the Imagination Library of La. 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. Provides that all monies appropriated by the legislature or designated to the fund through donation, gift, grant, or any other revenue shall be deposited in the fund; that monies in the fund shall be invested in the same manner as monies are invested in the state general fund; and that interest earned on investment of monies in the funds shall be credited to the fund.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:2508)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Make LETA's proposed law responsibilities subject to the appropriation of funds.
2. Authorize LETA to work collaboratively with a book-providing organization rather than Friends of La. Public Broadcasting to implement the program.
3. Add that in addition to monies appropriated by the legislature, monies designated to the fund through donation, gift, grant, or any other revenue shall be deposited into the fund.
4. Change name of program and fund.