

AN ACT relating to books for preschool children and making an appropriation therefor.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 171 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) *The Books for Brains Program is hereby established. The purpose of the program shall be to promote the development of a comprehensive statewide initiative for encouraging preschool children to develop an appreciation of books.*

(2) *Program funds shall be used to provide appropriate books on a regular basis to each registered child who is zero (0) to five (5) years of age in participating counties. Books shall be provided through a collaborative arrangement with a private nonprofit organization that will select and mail the books. The program shall be attached to the Department for Libraries and Archives for administrative purposes.*

(3) (a) *The program shall be governed by a board consisting of seven (7) members appointed by the Governor for a four (4) year term, except for the initial terms.*

(b) *The membership shall include at least one (1) county judge/executive, one (1) Head Start director, and one (1) public librarian, and four (4) other early childhood advocates. The members shall reflect the geographic diversity of the state.*

(c) *The initial appointments shall be as follows:*

1. *A one (1) year term for one (1) appointee;*

2. *A two (2) year term for two (2) appointees;*

3. *A three (3) year term for two (2) appointees; and*

4. *A four (4) year term for two (2) appointees.*

(d) *The terms of the appointees shall expire on June 30 in the appropriate year,*

and the terms of each new member appointed thereafter shall begin on July

1. Vacancies in the membership of the board shall be filled by the Governor for unexpired terms.

(e) At the first regular meeting of the board in each fiscal year, a chairperson shall be elected from the membership.

(f) The members shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as funds become available in the trust fund created in Section 2 of this Act.

(g) Staff shall be provided by the Department of Libraries and Archives to assist the board as needed.

(4) The board shall:

(a) Coordinate with the private nonprofit organization designated to select and mail the books and provide other program support;

(b) Identify a nonprofit sponsoring organization in each county as a partner to fund and administer the initiative;

(c) Provide one-half (1/2) of the necessary funds, when available from the Books for Brains Program trust fund created in Section 2 of this Act, to support the local partners in the provision of one (1) book per month for registered children;

(d) Assist local partners with fundraising, grant writing, public relations, and other support;

(e) Provide administrative services to the local partners, as needed; and

(f) Submit an annual report by October 1 of each year to the Governor and the Interim Joint Committee on Education.

➔SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 171 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) The Books for Brains Program trust fund is created as a separate restricted fund.

The trust fund shall be administered by the Department for Libraries and Archives and shall consist of funds from state appropriations, gifts, grants, and any other funds from the public and private sectors except as provided in subsection (2) of this section. The board established by Section 1 of this Act may solicit, accept, and receive contributions from the public and private sectors.

(2) The board shall not accept any federal grants or federal funds that add requirements or restrictions to the Books for Brains Program described in Section 1 of this Act, other than requirements related to reporting the expenditure of funds.

(3) Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, trust fund amounts not expended at the close of a fiscal year shall not lapse but shall be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

(4) Any interest earnings of the trust fund shall become a part of the trust fund and shall not lapse.

(5) The board may use trust fund moneys, including the investment income, for the purposes set forth in Section 1 of this Act.

(6) Amounts in the fund are hereby appropriated for the purposes set forth in Section 1 of this Act.

➔SECTION 3. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 171 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

The Department for Libraries and Archives shall promulgate administrative regulations to establish the procedures for working with local partners to provide books for each registered child. The administrative regulations shall include:

(1) Criteria for identifying and selecting local partners;

(2) Procedures for establishing agreements with the private nonprofit organization that will select and mail the books;

(3) Accounting and invoicing procedures for the participating entities;

(4) Procedures for registration of participants; and

(5) Procedures for terminating participation agreements with partners that default on the agreement.