

1 AN ACT relating to elementary literacy and making an appropriation therefor.

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

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

5 *(1) The Kids Love to Read Program is hereby established. The purpose of the*  
6 *program shall be to promote the development of a comprehensive statewide*  
7 *initiative for encouraging students in kindergarten through grade five (5) to*  
8 *develop and continue a love of reading and learning. For purposes of this section,*  
9 *"state program" means the Kids Love to Read Program and "statewide program*  
10 *provider" means the nonprofit organization chosen by the Department for*  
11 *Libraries and Archives to deliver the program.*

12 *(2) State program funds shall be used to provide, through the Kids Love to Read*  
13 *Program, one (1) book each week of the school year to each registered child in*  
14 *kindergarten through grade five (5). Books shall be sent to each child's home at*  
15 *no cost to families. The state program shall contribute a fifty percent (50%)*  
16 *match of funds, if available, necessary for the program.*

17 *(3) The Department for Libraries and Archives shall administer the state program,*  
18 *including determining a statewide program provider. A program is eligible and*  
19 *may apply to be the statewide program provider if it is a nonprofit organization*  
20 *and meets the following:*

21 *(a) Delivers an evidence-based self-selected reading program consisting of*  
22 *independent reading level books that are individually mailed to the*  
23 *residences of kindergarten through grade five (5) students on a weekly*  
24 *basis;*

25 *(b) Incorporates at least weekly phone calls, texts, or application notifications*  
26 *in multiple languages to a parent or guardian to drive parental and family*  
27 *engagement throughout the duration of the program;*

- 1 (c) Provides at least six (6) student selected new books that students get to keep;  
2 (d) Builds on pedagogical and literacy principles to scaffold fluency to improve  
3 reading comprehension with student exercises;  
4 (e) Includes a customizable portal to generate individualized data reports for  
5 analysis of student progress;  
6 (f) Collects, disaggregates, and distributes detailed data on all metrics of the  
7 program, such as parental engagement, books read, and allowable  
8 demographic data;  
9 (g) Provides summary data to the department for all students served by the  
10 program;  
11 (h) Agrees to secure the required fifty percent (50%) matching funds; and  
12 (i) Agrees that the total cost of the program, including matching funds, shall  
13 not exceed one hundred twenty dollars (\$120) per student per year.  
14 (4) The Department of Libraries and Archives shall promulgate regulations in  
15 accordance with KRS Chapter 13A as necessary to administer the program.  
16 (5) (a) The Kids Love to Read Program trust fund is hereby created as a trust fund  
17 in the State Treasury to be administered by the Department for Libraries  
18 and Archives for the purposes set forth in this section.  
19 (b) The trust fund shall consist of state general fund appropriations, gifts and  
20 grants from public and private sources, and federal funds. All moneys  
21 included in the fund shall be appropriated for the purposes set forth in this  
22 section.  
23 (c) Any unallotted or unencumbered balances in the trust fund shall be  
24 invested as provided in KRS 42.500(9). Income earned from the investments  
25 shall be credited to the trust fund.  
26 (d) Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, any fund balance at the close of the fiscal  
27 year shall not lapse but shall be carried forward to the next fiscal year and

1                    *continuously appropriated only for the purposes specified in this section.*

2                    ➔Section 2. There is hereby appropriated General Fund moneys from the Budget  
3 Reserve Trust Fund account established by KRS 48.705 in the amount of \$500,000 in  
4 fiscal year 2024-2025 and \$500,000 in fiscal year 2025-2026 to the Kids Love to Read  
5 Program trust fund.