

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 children 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 state 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 in**  
18 **coordination with the statewide program provider. A nonprofit organization shall**  
19 **be eligible to apply to be the statewide program provider. The statewide program**  
20 **provider shall be selected by the department based on evidence of the applicant's**  
21 **ability to:**

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

26       **(b) Incorporate at least weekly phone calls, texts, or application notifications in**  
27 **multiple languages to a parent or guardian to drive parental and family**

**engagement throughout the duration of the state program;**

**(c) Provide at least six (6) child-selected new books that children get to keep;**

**(d) Build on pedagogical and literacy principles to scaffold fluency to improve reading comprehension with children;**

(e) Provide a customizable portal to generate individualized data reports for analysis of a child's progress;

(f) Collect, disaggregate, and distribute detailed data on all metrics of the state program, such as parental engagement, books read, and allowable demographic data;

**(g) Provide summary data to the department for all children served by the state program;**

**(h) Secure the required fifty percent (50%) matching funds; and**

(i) Guarantee that the total cost of the state program, including matching funds, shall not exceed one hundred twenty dollars (\$120) per child per year.

16 (4) The Department of Libraries and Archives shall promulgate regulations in  
17 accordance with KRS Chapter 13A as necessary to administer the state program.

18 (5) (a) There is hereby established in the State Treasury a trust and agency  
19 account to be known as the Kids Love to Read Program fund. The fund  
20 shall consist of moneys received from state appropriations, gifts, grants, and  
21 federal funds.

22                   **(b) The fund shall be administered by the Department for Libraries and**  
23                   **Archives.**

(c) Amounts deposited in the fund shall be used for the purposes set forth in this section and for no other purpose.

1                   year.

2           ➔Section 2. There is hereby appropriated General Fund moneys from the Budget  
3           Reserve Trust Fund account established in KRS 48.705 in the amount of \$500,000 in  
4           fiscal year 2027-2028 to the Kids Love to Read Program fund.