

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

- 1 engagement throughout the duration of the state program;
- 2 (c) Provide at least six (6) child-selected new books that children get to keep;
- 3 (d) Build on pedagogical and literacy principles to scaffold fluency to improve
- 4 reading comprehension with children;
- 5 (e) Provide a customizable portal to generate individualized data reports for
- 6 analysis of a child's progress;
- 7 (f) Collect, disaggregate, and distribute detailed data on all metrics of the state
- 8 program, such as parental engagement, books read, and allowable
- 9 demographic data;
- 10 (g) Provide summary data to the department for all children served by the state
- 11 program;
- 12 (h) Secure the required fifty percent (50%) matching funds; and
- 13 (i) Guarantee that the total cost of the state program, including matching
- 14 funds, shall not exceed one hundred twenty dollars (\$120) per child per
- 15 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.
- 24 (c) Amounts deposited in the fund shall be used for the purposes set forth in
- 25 this section and for no other purpose.
- 26 (c) Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, fund amounts not expended at the close of a
- 27 fiscal year shall not lapse but shall be carried forward to the next fiscal

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.