

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

As Engrossed: S3/15/23

A Bill

SENATE BILL 416

By: Senators C. Tucker, B. Davis, L. Chesterfield, Irvin, *J. Dotson*

By: Representatives Evans, *C. Fite, Brooks, V. Flowers, Vaught, D. Garner*

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE IMAGINATION LIBRARY OF ARKANSAS PROGRAM; TO CREATE THE IMAGINATION LIBRARY OF ARKANSAS PROGRAM FUND; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE IMAGINATION LIBRARY OF ARKANSAS PROGRAM; AND TO CREATE THE IMAGINATION LIBRARY OF ARKANSAS PROGRAM FUND.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 13, Chapter 2, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

13-2-106. Imagination Library of Arkansas Program.

(a) There is created the Imagination Library of Arkansas Program.

(b) The state program shall promote the development of a comprehensive statewide initiative for encouraging preschool children to develop a love of reading and learning.

(c)(1)(A) The Imagination Library of Arkansas Program Fund shall be used to provide, through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, one (1) age-appropriate book to each registered child from birth to age five (5) in each participating county.

(B) The state program shall contribute a fifty percent (50%) match of the funds, if available, required of local programs participating in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.



(2) A book shall be sent monthly to the home of each registered child from birth to age five (5) in each participating county at no cost to the family of a registered child.

(d) The Department of Education shall partner with a nonprofit entity organized solely to promote and encourage reading in early childhood for the children of Arkansas, including without limitation Arkansas Imagination Library, to administer the state program, which shall include without limitation the following:

(1) Promoting the statewide development of county-level Dolly Parton's Imagination Library programs;

(2) Advancing and strengthening local Dolly Parton's Imagination Library programs with the goal of increasing family enrollment in those programs;

(3) Recruiting volunteers to assist in the development, promotion, and coordination of the state program;

(4) Soliciting donations, gifts, and other funding to financially support the local Dolly Parton's Imagination Library programs;

(5) Developing community engagement;

(6) Administering the state and local programs' dollar matching requirements;

(7) Coordinating the collection and remittance of local program costs for books and mailing; and

(8) Developing statewide marketing and communication plans.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 19, Chapter 5, Subchapter 12, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

19-5-1277. Imagination Library of Arkansas Program Fund.

(a) There is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, the Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a miscellaneous fund to be known as the "Imagination Library of Arkansas Program Fund".

(b) The fund shall consist of:

(1) Moneys obtained from private or public grants, gifts, or donations that are designated to be credited to the fund; and

(2) Any other funds authorized or provided by law.

(c) The fund shall be used by the Department of Education to create and maintain the Imagination Library of Arkansas Program under § 13-2-106.

(d) Moneys remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year shall carry forward and be made available for the purposes stated in this section in the next fiscal year.

/s/C. Tucker