

SENATE BILL NO. 703

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ESLINGER.

2727S.01H

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

AN ACT

To repeal section 178.694, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Affiliate.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 178.694, RSMo, is repealed and one new
2 section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 178.694,
3 to read as follows:

178.694. 1. As used in this section, the following
2 terms mean:

3 (1) "Affiliate", the Dolly Parton's imagination
4 library affiliate created under this section;

5 (2) "Department", the department of elementary and
6 secondary education;

7 (3) "Eligible child", any child under five years of
8 age who resides in this state;

9 (4) "Program", the imagination library of Missouri
10 program established in this section;

11 (5) "Reading selection", a high-quality, age-
12 appropriate book provided to an eligible child under the
13 program established in this section.

14 2. There is hereby established in the department's
15 office of childhood the "Imagination Library of Missouri
16 Program", which shall be a statewide program for encouraging
17 preschool children to read by providing monthly reading

EXPLANATION-Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

18 selections to the homes of children from birth to five years
19 of age.

20 3. The office of childhood shall **[establish] identify**
21 a nonprofit entity to work in conjunction with school
22 districts in mailing monthly reading selections directly to
23 the homes of eligible children. The entity shall be known
24 as the "Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Affiliate" and
25 shall be the statewide affiliate that works in conjunction
26 with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and school districts
27 to provide reading selections under this section.

28 4. Beginning in school year 2023-24 and continuing in
29 each subsequent school year, each school district shall, in
30 partnership with the **statewide** affiliate **or a local**
31 **affiliate of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library**, give one
32 reading selection to each eligible child in the school
33 district in each month, beginning as early as the child's
34 birth month through the month in which the child reaches
35 five years of age. Subject to appropriation, the costs of
36 giving such reading selections to eligible children shall be
37 reimbursed to each school district from the imagination
38 library of Missouri fund created in this section.

39 5. The department shall promulgate rules to:

40 (1) Manage the daily operations of the program;

41 (2) Coordinate with organizations and public schools
42 of this state to advance and strengthen the program and
43 promote enrollment growth;

44 (3) Develop, promote, and coordinate a public
45 awareness program to make donors aware of the opportunity to
46 donate to the imagination library of Missouri fund;

47 (4) Develop, promote, and coordinate a public
48 awareness program to make the public aware of the

49 opportunity to register children to receive age-appropriate
50 books on a monthly basis; and

51 (5) Allow the department to implement and administer
52 the provisions of this section.

53 6. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury
54 the "Imagination Library of Missouri Program Fund", which
55 shall consist of any gifts, bequests, grants, public or
56 private donations, transfers, or moneys appropriated under
57 this section. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the
58 fund. In accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the
59 state treasurer may approve disbursements. The fund shall
60 be a dedicated fund and, upon appropriation, moneys in this
61 fund shall be used solely as provided in this section.

62 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080
63 to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end
64 of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the
65 general revenue fund.

66 (3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the
67 fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any
68 interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be
69 credited to the fund.

70 7. The general assembly shall appropriate at least two
71 and one-half million dollars annually to the imagination
72 library of Missouri program fund. In the department's
73 budget requests for school year 2023-24 and all subsequent
74 school years, the department shall include a plan to
75 distribute sufficient moneys to school districts to allow
76 each school district to give reading selections to all
77 eligible children within the school district under this
78 section.

79 8. To comply with this section, a school district may,
80 in coordination with the department's office of childhood,

81 enter into an agreement, partnership, or similar arrangement
82 with an adjacent school district. If the school district
83 finds that no adjacent school district gives reading
84 selections to eligible children as provided in this section,
85 the school district may request the department's office of
86 childhood and the affiliate to assist the school district in
87 complying with this section.

88 9. Under section 23.253 of the Missouri sunset act:

89 (1) The provisions of the new program authorized under
90 this section shall automatically sunset on December thirty-
91 first four years after August 28, 2022, unless reauthorized
92 by an act of the general assembly; and

93 (2) If such program is reauthorized, the program
94 authorized under this section shall automatically sunset on
95 December thirty-first eight years after the effective date
96 of the reauthorization of this section; and

97 (3) This section shall terminate on September first of
98 the calendar year immediately following the calendar year in
99 which the program authorized under this section is sunset.

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