

By Representative Joyner

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to reading instruction;
3 providing legislative intent regarding required
4 reading instruction; requiring each public
5 elementary school to develop and implement
6 programs for reading and literacy development
7 in kindergarten through grade 5; requiring the
8 Department of Education to provide technical
9 support; providing an effective date.

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Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Required reading instruction in
kindergarten through grade 5.--

(1) The Legislature recognizes that reading is a major
foundational skill for all school-based learning. It further
recognizes the importance of instruction in reading in primary
grades to improve a student's academic performance. The public
schools of this state have successfully improved student
performance by increasing the number of instructional hours
spent on reading in the primary grades. Engaging students in
learning through curriculum that emphasizes reading offers the
additional benefits of reducing disciplinary problems and
diminishing the need for social promotion of students who have
not learned to read.

(2) To encourage local control in the determination of
reading and literacy development programs, each public
elementary school shall develop and implement an appropriately
designed reading program to include daily reading and literacy
development in kindergarten through grade 5.

1 (3) Each public elementary school shall devote a
2 locally determined amount of time each day to reading and
3 literacy development in kindergarten through grade 5.

4 (4) The Department of Education shall provide
5 technical support and guidance to any public elementary school
6 that requests assistance pertaining to the implementation of
7 this section.

8 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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11 HOUSE SUMMARY

12 Provides legislative intent regarding required reading
13 instruction. Requires each public elementary school to
14 develop and implement programs for reading and literacy
15 development in kindergarten through grade 5. Requires the
16 Department of Education to provide technical support.