

By the Committee on Appropriations; and Senator Miller

309-2068-02

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 4; establishing a  
8           program to encourage the training of teachers  
9           in reading development; providing for the  
10          withholding of a portion of staff training  
11          funds if the program is not implemented in at  
12          least one school in a district; requiring the  
13          Department of Education to provide technical  
14          support; providing an effective date.

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

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18           Section 1. Required reading instruction in  
19 kindergarten through grade 4.--

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

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1           (2) To encourage local control in the determination of  
2 reading and literacy development programs, each public  
3 elementary school shall develop and implement an appropriately  
4 designed reading program to include daily reading and literacy  
5 development in kindergarten through grade 4.

6           (3) Each public school shall devote a locally  
7 determined amount of time each day to reading and literacy  
8 development in kindergarten through grade 4.

9           (4) The Legislature recognizes that statewide  
10 compliance with this section is necessary to raise student  
11 achievement in reading and, therefore, establishes the program  
12 described in this section to promote the goals of this  
13 section.

14           (a) School districts will offer each school in their  
15 district the opportunity to receive training for the staff of  
16 that entire school in reading development and literacy. The  
17 district will select at least one school for that purpose.

18           (b) The school district may contract with any  
19 reading-development training program, including North East  
20 Florida Educational Consortium, Project Child, or another  
21 program, through which to train its teachers.

22           (c) If the reading program selected is implemented in  
23 at least one of the schools, the district will receive 100  
24 percent of its annual allocation for teacher training as  
25 provided in the General Appropriations Act.

26           (d) If the program is not implemented in at least one  
27 of the schools, the district will receive only 90 percent of  
28 its annual allocation for teacher training. The Secretary of  
29 Education may use the holdback to fund another reading  
30 program.

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1           (e) Small districts with school populations of fewer  
2 than 2,500 students, although encouraged to adopt reading and  
3 literacy-development programs, are exempt from the funding  
4 penalties imposed under this section.

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

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

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11                           STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
12   COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
13   Senate Bill 94

14 The Committee Substitute provides that a school district  
15 larger than 2,500 students must select at least one school for  
16 training the school's entire staff in reading development and  
17 literacy. Failure to do so would cause the district to incur  
18 a loss of 10% of its teacher training funds.

19 Smaller districts are encouraged, but not required, to do the  
20 staff training in reading development and literacy.  
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