

By Senator Joyner

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Jump Start Literacy Pilot
3 Project; requiring the Office of Early Learning within
4 the Department of Education to establish the pilot
5 project in St. Lucie County to assist low-income, at-
6 risk children in developing emergent literacy skills;
7 providing eligibility requirements for participation;
8 requiring the office to establish performance
9 standards and outcome measures for participating
10 children; requiring emergent literacy training for
11 instructors; requiring the office to allocate funds
12 for the pilot project; providing an effective date.

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

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16 Section 1. (1) The Office of Early Learning within the
17 Department of Education shall establish the 5-year Jump Start
18 Literacy Pilot Project in St. Lucie County to assist low-income,
19 at-risk children in developing emergent literacy skills. The
20 pilot project shall be implemented in one or more municipalities
21 in St. Lucie County, which are selected by the office in
22 consultation with the Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie
23 County. A municipality within which locally or federally
24 subsidized housing is located is eligible for participation in
25 the pilot project. The office shall seek partnerships with local
26 nonprofit organizations and the business community in
27 implementing the pilot project.

28 (2) As used in this section, the term "emergent literacy"
29 means a variety of early behaviors and skills associated with

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30 successful reading and writing development. These fundamental
31 skills, which develop during the first 5 years of life,
32 contribute to a child's foundations for literacy and learning
33 and future success in school and life.

34 (3) To participate in the pilot project, a child must be:

35 (a) Two or 3 years of age.

36 (b) Eligible for a federally subsidized child care program.

37 (c) A member of a family that is economically disadvantaged
38 and resides in locally or federally subsidized housing. For
39 purposes of this paragraph, the term "economically
40 disadvantaged" means having a family income that does not exceed
41 150 percent of the federal poverty level.

42 (4) The Office of Early Learning shall establish
43 performance standards and outcome measures that address the age-
44 appropriate progress of children in developing emergent literacy
45 behaviors and skills. An instructor in the pilot project must
46 have successfully completed an emergent literacy training course
47 approved by the office.

48 (5) The emergent literacy instruction shall be conducted in
49 a subsidized housing unit in order to provide easy access for
50 participating children and families.

51 (6) The Office of Early Learning shall allocate funds for
52 implementation of the pilot project.

53 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.