

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

13  
 14   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

15  
 16           Section 1. (1) The Office of Early Learning shall  
 17           establish the 5-year Literacy Jump Start Pilot Project in St.  
 18           Lucie County to assist low-income, at-risk children in  
 19           developing emergent literacy skills. The pilot project shall be  
 20           implemented in one or more municipalities in St. Lucie County,  
 21           which are selected by the office in consultation with the Early  
 22           Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County. A municipality within  
 23           which locally or federally subsidized housing is located is  
 24           eligible for participation in the pilot project. The office  
 25           shall seek partnerships with local nonprofit organizations and  
 26           the business community in implementing the pilot project.

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

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

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

34 (a) Two or 3 years of age.

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

37 (c) A member of a family that is economically  
38 disadvantaged and resides in locally or federally subsidized  
39 housing. For 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  
49 in 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.