

House File 2351 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2351

BY GAINES

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing the Iowa imagination library program within
2 the department of administrative services.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 8A.202, subsection 1, Code 2024, is
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *n.* Administer the Iowa imagination library
4 program established pursuant to section 8A.202A.

5 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **8A.202A Iowa imagination library**
6 **program.**

7 1. As used in this section:

8 *a.* "*County-based affiliate program*" means a local affiliate
9 of the program that operates within a county or city in this
10 state.

11 *b.* "*Eligible child*" means a person residing in this state
12 who is five years of age or younger.

13 *c.* "*National nonprofit foundation*" means a national
14 nonprofit foundation that exists for the sole purpose of
15 working with local persons to identify eligible children
16 and mail to those eligible children age-appropriate and
17 high-quality books each month at no cost to an eligible child
18 or the eligible child's family.

19 *d.* "*Program*" means the Iowa imagination library program
20 created pursuant to this section.

21 2. Subject to an appropriation of funds by the general
22 assembly for this purpose, the program is created and shall be
23 administered by the department. The program shall authorize
24 the state librarian to enter into an agreement with a nonprofit
25 entity that shall operate the program. The agreement shall
26 require the nonprofit entity to do all of the following:

27 *a.* Exist for the sole purpose of creating and operating the
28 program.

29 *b.* Manage the daily operations of the program, including
30 establishing county-based affiliate programs in all counties
31 and cities in this state and advancing and strengthening the
32 county-based affiliate programs to ensure increased enrollment
33 in the program.

34 *c.* Develop, promote, and coordinate a public awareness
35 campaign to make donors aware of the opportunity to donate to

1 county-based affiliate programs and make the public aware of
2 the opportunity to register eligible children to receive books
3 through the program.

4 *d.* Contract with a national nonprofit foundation to provide
5 eligible children with age-appropriate and high-quality books
6 each month at no cost to an eligible child or the eligible
7 child's family.

8 *e.* Pay to the national nonprofit foundation fifty percent of
9 the costs the national nonprofit foundation incurs providing
10 books to eligible children under the program, as determined by
11 the national nonprofit foundation.

12 3. The county-based affiliate programs shall pay to the
13 nonprofit entity that is responsible for the operation of the
14 program a combined fifty percent of the costs the national
15 nonprofit foundation incurs providing books to eligible
16 children under the program, as determined by the national
17 nonprofit foundation. The amount that each county-based
18 affiliate program pays shall be prorated to the number of
19 eligible children the county-based affiliate program has
20 enrolled under the program.

21 4. The department shall develop a strategy for attracting
22 additional financial resources for the program from other
23 sources, which may include the private sector and local, state,
24 and federal government funding sources.

25 5. On or before July 1 the year after the state librarian
26 and nonprofit entity enter into an agreement pursuant to
27 subsection 2, and annually after that date on July 1, the
28 nonprofit entity shall submit a report to the department that
29 includes information related to the total number of eligible
30 children residing in each county and city in this state and
31 the total number of eligible children who are enrolled in the
32 program in each county and city in this state. The department
33 shall submit the report to the general assembly, along with any
34 other information related to the program that the department
35 deems pertinent.

1

EXPLANATION

2

The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
3 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

3

4 This bill establishes the Iowa imagination library program
5 within the department of administrative services (department).

6 The bill provides that, subject to an appropriation of
7 funds by the general assembly, the Iowa imagination library
8 program is created and shall be administered by the department.
9 The program facilitates the mailing of age-appropriate and
10 high-quality books each month to eligible children at no cost
11 to an eligible child or the eligible child's family. Under the
12 program, an "eligible child" is a person residing in this state
13 who is five years of age or younger.

14 The program authorizes the state librarian to enter into
15 an agreement with a nonprofit entity that shall operate the
16 program. The bill establishes that the agreement shall require
17 the nonprofit entity to exist for the purpose of operating
18 the program; managing the daily operations of the program,
19 including establishing county-based affiliate programs;
20 developing and coordinating a public awareness campaign to
21 make donors aware of the opportunity to donate to county-based
22 affiliate programs and make the public aware of the opportunity
23 to register eligible children to receive books through the
24 program; contracting with a national nonprofit foundation to
25 provide eligible children with books each month at no cost; and
26 paying to the national nonprofit foundation 50 percent of the
27 costs the national nonprofit foundation incurs providing books
28 to eligible children under the program.

29 The bill requires county-based affiliate programs to pay to
30 the nonprofit entity that is responsible for the operation of
31 the program a combined 50 percent of the costs the national
32 nonprofit foundation incurs providing books to eligible
33 children under the program. The bill provides that the amount
34 that each county-based affiliate program pays shall be prorated
35 to the number of eligible children the county-based affiliate

1 program has enrolled under the program.

2 The bill requires the department to develop a strategy for
3 attracting additional financial resources for the program from
4 other sources.

5 The bill requires the nonprofit entity to submit a report to
6 the department that includes information related to the total
7 number of eligible children residing in each county and city in
8 this state and the total number of eligible children who are
9 enrolled in the program in each county and city in this state.
10 The bill also requires the department to submit this report to
11 the general assembly, along with any other information related
12 to the program that the department deems pertinent.