

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 2567
101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4467H.04C

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 178, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the imagination library of Missouri program.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 178, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be
2 known as section 178.694, to read as follows:

178.694. 1. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

2 **(1) "Affiliate", the Dolly Parton's imagination library affiliate created under this**
3 **section;**

4 **(2) "Department", the department of elementary and secondary education;**

5 **(3) "Eligible child", any child under five years of age who resides in this state;**

6 **(4) "Program", the imagination library of Missouri program established in this**
7 **section;**

8 **(5) "Reading selection", a high-quality, age-appropriate book provided to an**
9 **eligible child under the program established in this section.**

10 **2. There is hereby established in the department's office of childhood the**
11 **"Imagination Library of Missouri Program", which shall be a statewide program for**
12 **encouraging preschool children to read by providing monthly reading selections to the**
13 **homes of children from birth to five years of age.**

14 **3. The office of childhood shall establish a nonprofit entity to work in**
15 **conjunction with school districts in mailing monthly reading selections directly to the**
16 **homes of eligible children. The entity shall be known as the "Dolly Parton's**
17 **Imagination Library Affiliate" and shall be the statewide affiliate that works in**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets ~~thus~~ in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 conjunction with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and school districts to provide
19 reading selections under this section.

20 4. Beginning in school year 2023-24 and continuing in each subsequent school
21 year, each school district shall, in partnership with the affiliate, give one reading
22 selection to each eligible child in the school district in each month, beginning as early as
23 the child's birth month through the month in which the child reaches five years of age.
24 Subject to appropriation, the costs of giving such reading selections to eligible children
25 shall be reimbursed to each school district from the imagination library of Missouri
26 fund created in this section.

27 5. The department shall promulgate rules to:

28 (1) Manage the daily operations of the program;

29 (2) Coordinate with organizations and public schools of this state to advance and
30 strengthen the program and promote enrollment growth;

31 (3) Develop, promote, and coordinate a public awareness program to make
32 donors aware of the opportunity to donate to the imagination library of Missouri fund;

33 (4) Develop, promote, and coordinate a public awareness program to make the
34 public aware of the opportunity to register children to receive age-appropriate books on
35 a monthly basis; and

36 (5) Allow the department to implement and administer the provisions of this
37 section.

38 6. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Imagination Library of
39 Missouri Program Fund", which shall consist of any gifts, bequests, grants, public or
40 private donations, transfers, or moneys appropriated under this section. The state
41 treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180,
42 the state treasurer may approve disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and,
43 upon appropriation, moneys in this fund shall be used solely as provided in this section.

44 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys
45 remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the
46 general revenue fund.

47 (3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as
48 other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be
49 credited to the fund.

50 7. The general assembly shall appropriate at least five million dollars annually to
51 the imagination library of Missouri program fund. In the department's budget requests
52 for school year 2023-24 and all subsequent school years, the department shall include a
53 plan to distribute sufficient moneys to school districts to allow each school district to

54 give reading selections to all eligible children within the school district under this
55 section.

56 **8. To comply with this section, a school district may, in coordination with the**
57 **department's office of childhood, enter into an agreement, partnership, or similar**
58 **arrangement with an adjacent school district. If the school district finds that no**
59 **adjacent school district gives reading selections to eligible children as provided in this**
60 **section, the school district may request the department's office of childhood and the**
61 **affiliate to assist the school district in complying with this section.**

62 **9. Under section 23.253 of the Missouri sunset act:**

63 **(1) The provisions of the new program authorized under this section shall**
64 **automatically sunset on December thirty-first four years after the effective date of this**
65 **section unless reauthorized by an act of the general assembly; and**

66 **(2) If such program is reauthorized, the program authorized under this section**
67 **shall automatically sunset on December thirty-first eight years after the effective date of**
68 **the reauthorization of this section; and**

69 **(3) This section shall terminate on September first of the calendar year**
70 **immediately following the calendar year in which the program authorized under this**
71 **section is sunset.**

✓