

By Representative Joyner

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; requiring the  
8           Department of Education to provide technical  
9           support; providing an effective date.

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

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13           Section 1. Required reading instruction in  
14 kindergarten through grade 4.--

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

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

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

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

8           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

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11   SENATE SUMMARY

12           Provides legislative intent regarding required reading  
13 instruction. Requires each public elementary school to  
14 develop and implement programs for reading and literacy  
15 development in kindergarten through grade 4. Requires the  
16 Department of Education to provide technical support.