

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Literacy Jump Start Pilot  
3           Project; requiring the Department of Education 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  
8           department to establish performance standards and  
9           outcome measures for participating children; requiring  
10          emergent literacy training for instructors; requiring  
11          the department to allocate funds for the pilot  
12          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 Department of Education 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 department in consultation with the  
22 Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County. A municipality  
23 within which locally or federally subsidized housing is located  
24 is eligible for participation in the pilot project. The  
25 department shall seek partnerships with local nonprofit  
26 organizations and the business community in implementing the  
27 pilot project.

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

38        (c) A member of a family that is economically  
39 disadvantaged and resides in locally or federally subsidized  
40 housing. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "economically  
41 disadvantaged" means having a family income that does not exceed  
42 150 percent of the federal poverty level.

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

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

52        (6) The Department of Education shall allocate funds for  
53 implementation of the pilot project.

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