

By Senator Simmons

9-01195-18

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Books to Babies Pilot Project;
3 requiring the Office of Early Learning to establish
4 the Books to Babies Pilot Project in Seminole and
5 Orange Counties to provide resources to parents
6 relating to emergent literacy skills; requiring the
7 office to oversee implementation of the pilot project;
8 requiring the office to select an organization that
9 meets specified criteria to implement the pilot
10 project; providing requirements for the use of pilot
11 project funds; requiring the organization to annually
12 provide a report to the office, the early learning
13 coalitions in Orange and Seminole Counties, the
14 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker
15 of the House of Representatives; requiring the office
16 to allocate funds for the pilot project; requiring the
17 Orange and Seminole County School Districts to provide
18 matching funds for the pilot project; providing an
19 effective date.

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

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23 Section 1. (1) The Office of Early Learning shall establish
24 the 3-year Books to Babies Pilot Project in Seminole and Orange
25 Counties to assist children in developing emergent literacy
26 skills.

27 (a) The Office of Early Learning shall consult the Early
28 Learning Coalition of Orange County, the Early Learning
29 Coalition of Seminole, and the Seminole and Orange County School

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30 Districts to implement the pilot project. The office shall
31 oversee the implementation of the pilot project.

32 (b) The Office of Early Learning shall select a local
33 organization that is a not-for-profit corporation, qualified as
34 charitable under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, that
35 provides books and resources to parents of newborns, parent
36 education on early literacy skills, parent and child playgroups,
37 and case management services to families, such as Great Start of
38 Seminole County or another similarly qualified local
39 organization, to implement the pilot project.

40 (2) The organization selected by the Office of Early
41 Learning must use the funds provided for the pilot project to
42 provide:

43 (a) Books and resources to parents of newborns, including
44 hospital gift bags to new parents that consist of books for the
45 baby, educational information for the parents, and a schedule of
46 events organized through the program.

47 (b) Information on early literacy skills, child
48 development, and the nurturing of infants and toddlers.

49 (c) Structured playgroups for parents and children to play
50 and learn.

51 (d) Case management services to families, including
52 assistance through home visits.

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54 The organization is encouraged to engage in community outreach
55 efforts to local community service organizations for the purpose
56 of improving the availability and effective delivery of pilot
57 project resources.

58 (3) By December 31 of each year the organization provides

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59 services through the pilot project, the organization shall
60 submit an accountability report to the Office of Early Learning,
61 the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County, the Early
62 Learning Coalition of Seminole, the Governor, the President of
63 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The
64 accountability report must include, at a minimum, the following
65 information:

66 (a) The manner in which all state funds received by the
67 organization are used to implement the pilot project, separated
68 by type of expenditure and measured in exact dollar amounts.

69 (b) Other sources of funding received by the organization
70 for purposes of implementing the pilot project.

71 (4) The Office of Early Learning shall allocate funds for
72 implementation of the pilot project pursuant to this section.
73 Expenditures of state funds pursuant to this section must be
74 verified by affidavit submitted to the office in a procedure and
75 format determined by the office. The Orange County School
76 District and Seminole County School District shall provide
77 matching funds for the program.

78 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.