

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3148

To provide children with better access to books and other reading materials and resources from birth to adulthood, including opportunities to own books.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 2 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 22), 2000

Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To provide children with better access to books and other reading materials and resources from birth to adulthood, including opportunities to own books.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Access to Books for
5 Children Act” or the “ABC Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO THE ELEMENTARY AND SEC-**
 2 **ONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965.**

3 Part E of title X of the Elementary and Secondary
 4 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8131 et seq.) is amend-
 5 ed to read as follows:

6 **“PART E—ACCESS TO BOOKS FOR CHILDREN**
 7 **(ABC)**

8 **“SEC. 10500. PURPOSE.**

9 “It is the purpose of this part to provide children with
 10 better access to books and other reading materials and
 11 resources from birth to adulthood, including opportunities
 12 to own books.

13 **“Subpart 1—Inexpensive Book Distribution Program**

14 **“SEC. 10501. INEXPENSIVE BOOK DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM**
 15 **FOR READING MOTIVATION.**

16 “(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary is authorized
 17 to enter into a contract with Reading is Fundamental
 18 (RIF) (hereafter in this section referred to as ‘the con-
 19 tractor’) to support and promote programs, which include
 20 the distribution of inexpensive books to students, that mo-
 21 tivate children to read.

22 “(b) **REQUIREMENTS OF CONTRACT.**—Any contract
 23 entered into under subsection (a) shall—

24 “(1) provide that the contractor will enter into
 25 subcontracts with local private nonprofit groups or
 26 organizations, or with public agencies, under which

1 each subcontractor will agree to establish, operate,
2 and provide the non-Federal share of the cost of
3 reading motivation programs that include the dis-
4 tribution of books, by gift, to the extent feasible, or
5 loan, to children from birth through secondary
6 school age, including those in family literacy pro-
7 grams;

8 “(2) provide that funds made available to sub-
9 contractors will be used only to pay the Federal
10 share of the cost of such programs;

11 “(3) provide that in selecting subcontractors for
12 initial funding, the contractor will give priority to
13 programs that will serve a substantial number or
14 percentage of children with special needs, such as—

15 “(A) low-income children, particularly in
16 high-poverty areas;

17 “(B) children at risk of school failure;

18 “(C) children with disabilities;

19 “(D) foster children;

20 “(E) homeless children;

21 “(F) migrant children;

22 “(G) children without access to libraries;

23 “(H) institutionalized or incarcerated chil-
24 dren; and

1 “(I) children whose parents are institu-
2 tionalized or incarcerated;

3 “(4) provide that the contractor will provide
4 such technical assistance to subcontractors as may
5 be necessary to carry out the purpose of this section;

6 “(5) provide that the contractor will annually
7 report to the Secretary the number of, and describe,
8 programs funded under paragraph (3); and

9 “(6) include such other terms and conditions as
10 the Secretary determines to be appropriate to ensure
11 the effectiveness of such programs.

12 “(c) RESTRICTION ON PAYMENTS.—The Secretary
13 shall make no payment of the Federal share of the cost
14 of acquiring and distributing books under any contract
15 under this section unless the Secretary determines that
16 the contractor or subcontractor, as the case may be, has
17 made arrangements with book publishers or distributors
18 to obtain books at discounts at least as favorable as dis-
19 counts that are customarily given by such publisher or dis-
20 tributor for book purchases made under similar cir-
21 cumstances in the absence of Federal assistance.

22 “(d) DEFINITION OF ‘FEDERAL SHARE’.—For the
23 purpose of this section, the term ‘Federal share’ means,
24 with respect to the cost to a subcontractor of purchasing
25 books to be paid under this section, 75 percent of such

1 costs to the subcontractor, except that the Federal share
2 for programs serving children of migrant or seasonal
3 farmworkers shall be 100 percent of such costs to the sub-
4 contractor.

5 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
6 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized
7 to be appropriated \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 and
8 such sums as may be necessary for each of the four suc-
9 ceeding fiscal years.

10 **“Subpart 2—Local Partnerships for Books**

11 **“SEC. 10511. LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR BOOKS.**

12 “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary is authorized
13 to enter into a contract with a national organization (re-
14 ferred to in this section as the ‘contractor’) to support and
15 promote programs that—

16 “(1) pay the Federal share of the cost of dis-
17 tributing at no cost new books to disadvantaged chil-
18 dren and families primarily through tutoring, men-
19 toring, and family literacy programs; and

20 “(2) promote the growth and strengthening of
21 local partnerships with the goal of leveraging the
22 Federal book distribution efforts and building upon
23 the work of community programs to enhance reading
24 motivation for at-risk children.

1 “(b) REQUIREMENTS OF CONTRACT.—Any contract
2 entered into under subsection (a) shall—

3 “(1) provide that the contractor will provide
4 technical support and initial resources to local part-
5 nerships to support efforts to provide new books to
6 those tutoring, mentoring, and family literacy pro-
7 grams reaching disadvantaged children;

8 “(2) provide that funds made available to sub-
9 contractors will be used only to pay the Federal
10 share of the cost of such programs;

11 “(3) provide that the contractor, working in co-
12 operation with the local partnerships, will give pri-
13 ority to those tutoring, mentoring, and family lit-
14 eracy programs that serve children and families with
15 special needs, predominantly those children from
16 economically disadvantaged families and those chil-
17 dren and families without access to libraries;

18 “(4) provide that the contractor will annually
19 report to the Secretary regarding the number of
20 books distributed, the number of local partnerships
21 created and supported, the number of community tu-
22 toring, mentoring, and family literacy programs re-
23 ceiving books for children, and the number of chil-
24 dren provided with books; and

1 “(5) include such other terms and conditions as
2 the Secretary determines to be appropriate to ensure
3 the effectiveness of the program.

4 “(c) RESTRICTION ON PAYMENTS.—The Secretary
5 shall require the contractor to ensure that the discounts
6 provided by publishers and distributors for the new books
7 purchased under this section is at least as favorable as
8 discounts that are customarily given by such publishers
9 or distributors for book purchases made under similar cir-
10 cumstances in the absence of Federal assistance.

11 “(d) DEFINITION OF FEDERAL SHARE.—For the
12 purpose of this section, the term ‘Federal share’ means,
13 with respect to the cost of purchasing books under this
14 section, 50 percent of the cost to the contractor, except
15 that the Federal share for programs serving children of
16 migrant or seasonal farmworkers shall be 100 percent of
17 such costs to the contractor.

18 “(e) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The contractor
19 shall provide for programs under this section, either di-
20 rectly or through private contributions, in cash or in-kind,
21 non-Federal matching funds equal to not less than 50 per-
22 cent of the amount provided to the contractor under this
23 section.

24 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—For the
25 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized

1 to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for the fiscal year 2001
 2 and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 4 suc-
 3 ceeding fiscal years.

4 **“Subpart 3—Partnerships for Infants and Young**
 5 **Children**

6 **“SEC. 10521. PARTNERSHIPS FOR INFANTS AND YOUNG**
 7 **CHILDREN.**

8 “(a) PROGRAMS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary is au-
 9 thorized to enter into a contract with a national organiza-
 10 tion (referred to in this section as the ‘contractor’) to sup-
 11 port and promote programs that—

12 “(1) include the distribution of free books to
 13 children 5 years of age and younger, including pro-
 14 viding guidance from pediatric clinicians to parents
 15 and guardians with respect to reading aloud with
 16 their young children; and

17 “(2) help build the reading readiness skills the
 18 children need to learn to read once the children
 19 enter school.

20 “(b) REQUIREMENTS OF CONTRACT.—Any contract
 21 entered into under subsection (a) shall—

22 “(1) provide that the contractor will enter into
 23 subcontracts with local private nonprofit groups or
 24 organizations or with public agencies under which
 25 each subcontractor will agree to establish, operate,

1 and provide the non-Federal share of the cost of
2 reading motivation programs that include the dis-
3 tribution of books by gift, to the extent feasible, or
4 loan to children from birth through 5 years of age,
5 including those children in family literacy programs;

6 “(2) provide that funds made available to sub-
7 contractors will be used only to pay the Federal
8 share of the cost of such programs;

9 “(3) provide that in selecting subcontractors for
10 initial funding under this section, the contractor will
11 give priority to programs that will serve a substan-
12 tial number or percentage of children with special
13 needs, such as—

14 “(A) low-income children, particularly low-
15 income children in high-poverty areas;

16 “(B) children with disabilities;

17 “(C) foster children;

18 “(D) homeless children;

19 “(E) migrant children;

20 “(F) children without access to libraries;

21 “(G) children without adequate medical in-
22 surance; and

23 “(H) children enrolled in a State medicaid
24 program under title XIX of the Social Security
25 Act;

1 “(4) provide that the contractor will provide
2 such technical assistance to subcontractors as may
3 be necessary to carry out this section;

4 “(5) provide that the contractor will annually
5 report to the Secretary on the effectiveness of the
6 national program and the effectiveness of the local
7 programs funded under this section, including a de-
8 scription of the national program and of each of the
9 local programs; and

10 “(6) include such other terms and conditions as
11 the Secretary determines to be appropriate to ensure
12 the effectiveness of such programs.

13 “(c) RESTRICTION ON PAYMENTS.—The Secretary
14 shall make no payment of the Federal share of the cost
15 of acquiring and distributing books under any contract
16 under this section unless the Secretary determines that
17 the contractor or subcontractor, as the case may be, has
18 made arrangements with book publishers or distributors
19 to obtain books at discounts at least as favorable as dis-
20 counts that are customarily given by such publisher or dis-
21 tributor for book purchases made under similar cir-
22 cumstances in the absence of Federal assistance.

23 “(d) DEFINITION OF FEDERAL SHARE.—In this sec-
24 tion with respect to the cost to a subcontractor of pur-
25 chasing books to be paid under this section, the term ‘Fed-

1 eral share' means 50 percent of such costs to the subcon-
2 tractor, except that the Federal share for programs serv-
3 ing children of migrant or seasonal farmworkers shall be
4 100 percent of such costs to the subcontractor.

5 “(e) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The contractor
6 shall provide for programs under this section, either di-
7 rectly or through private contributions, in cash or in-kind,
8 non-Federal matching funds equal to not less than 50 per-
9 cent of the amount provided to the contractor under this
10 section.

11 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
12 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized
13 to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 and
14 such sums as may be necessary for each of the 4 suc-
15 ceeding fiscal years.

16 **“Subpart 4—Evaluation**

17 **“SEC. 10531. EVALUATION.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall annually
19 conduct an evaluation of—

20 “(1) programs carried out under this part to
21 assess the effectiveness of such programs in meeting
22 the purpose of this part and the goals of each sub-
23 part; and

1 “(2) the effectiveness of local literacy programs
2 conducted under this part that link children with
3 book ownership and mentoring in literacy.

4 “(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For
5 purposes of carrying out this section, there is authorized
6 to be appropriated \$500,000 for fiscal year 2001, and
7 such sums as may be necessary in each of the 4 succeeding
8 fiscal years.”.

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