

SENATE BILL 2211

By Jackson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 6, Part 7, relative to after school
programs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 7, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Department" means the department of education;

(2) "Pilot program" means the Reading Matters Pilot Program created in
subsection (b); and

(3) "Pilot program operators" means an organization listed in title 36 of
the United States Code that is intended to serve young people under eighteen
(18) years of age.

(b) There is created a three-year pilot program, to begin in the 2016-2017 school
year, known as the Reading Matters Pilot Program. The purpose of the pilot program is
to implement a comprehensive literacy curriculum for children in kindergarten through
grade three (K-3) that is focused on improving the reading skills of participants to the
appropriate grade level. The pilot program shall be provided to children by pilot program
operators.

(c) The department shall develop, administer, and monitor the pilot program.

(d) The pilot program shall be funded by a combination of available federal funds
and funds appropriated by the general assembly for the pilot program.

(e) Pilot program operators shall be inspected and approved by the commissioner, pursuant to title 49, chapter 1, part 11. Staff of pilot program operators shall be subject to the investigation required by § 49-5-413.

(f) Pilot program operators shall provide a safe and easily accessible facility for providing the literacy curriculum. The facility used by the pilot program operator may be an elementary school, or other public school facility, or an alternate facility that is at least as accessible as the schools attended by the participants. Pilot program operators may serve children from more than one (1) school.

(g) Pilot program operators shall ensure that staff providing the literacy curriculum have access to high-quality training and professional development.

(h) Pilot program operators shall track participant progress in the program and evaluate the success of the pilot program through assessment of the participants' academic improvement. The department, or LEAs with students participating, may use on-site monitoring, as they determine to be appropriate, to evaluate the pilot program. Pilot program operators shall submit quarterly updates and annual progress reports to the department. The department shall provide an annual summary of the pilot program to the education committee of the senate and the education instruction and programs committee of the house of representatives by December 1 each year of the pilot program.

(i) The department is authorized to promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules shall be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring

it.