

By: Representative Scott (80th)

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 196

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORIZING LOCAL SCHOOL
2 BOARDS TO REQUIRE ALL PUPILS IN GRADES 1-12 TO READ A MINIMUM OF
3 FOUR BOOKS PER SCHOOL YEAR AND MAKE REPORTS THEREON; TO AUTHORIZE
4 THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP AND ISSUE GUIDELINES
5 UNDER WHICH SCHOOL DISTRICTS MAY APPLY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THIS
6 PILOT PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

8 SECTION 1. (1) There is established a pilot program, to be
9 administered by the State Department of Education, under which the
10 school boards of participating school districts shall require the
11 teachers under their control to have all pupils in Grades 1-12
12 read a minimum of four (4) books per school year, in addition to
13 regular textbook requirements, and to make satisfactory book
14 reports thereon. The State Board of Education shall receive and
15 review applications for this pilot program and may approve
16 applications from up to ten (10) local school districts throughout
17 the state, with at least one (1) pilot program to be approved in
18 Sunflower, Bolivar and Jasper Counties, respectively, unless there
19 are no applications submitted from the school districts within
20 those counties. At least three (3) approved school districts
21 shall have an accreditation level of three (3) or below at the
22 time the district submits its application unless there are no
23 applications submitted from such school districts.

24 (2) The State Department of Education is authorized to
25 develop and issue curriculum guidelines to school districts
26 relating to the implementation of the requirements of subsection
27 (1) of this section, including recommendations on age-appropriate
28 books.

29 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
30 and after July 1, 1999.