

By: Senator(s) Simmons, Hawks, Jordan (24th) To: Education

## SENATE BILL NO. 2068

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

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

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

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

29 books.

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