SENATE BILL NO. 2862

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

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

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

(2) The State Department of Education is hereby authorized
to develop and issue curriculum guidelines to school districts
relating to the implementation of the requirements of subsection
(1) of this section, including recommendations on age-appropriate
books.
SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2003.