

By: Senator(s) Simmons

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2026

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORIZING LOCAL SCHOOL
2 BOARDS IN THE STATE TO REQUIRE ALL PUPILS IN GRADES 1 THROUGH 12
3 TO READ A MINIMUM OF FOUR BOOKS PER SCHOOL YEAR AND MAKE REPORTS
4 THEREON; TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP
5 AND ISSUE 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 through 12 to read a minimum of four (4) books per school
13 year, 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, for 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, 2004.