

HOUSE BILL 1172

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2000 Regular Session
0lr2322
CF 0lr2702

By: **Delegate Shriver**
Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2000
Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 14, 2000

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Early Childhood Literacy - Grants**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Education to distribute certain
4 grants to certain organizations to promote literacy at an early age; requiring an
5 organization that is awarded a grant to use the grant for certain purposes;
6 requiring the Governor to include funding for the grants in the State budget;
7 authorizing the State Board to adopt certain regulations; and generally relating
8 to grants for literacy at an early age.

9 BY adding to
10 Article - Education
11 Section 5-213
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (1999 Replacement Volume)

14 **Preamble**

15 WHEREAS, There is now scientific evidence, based on studies on early brain
16 development, to support the need to promote literacy at the earliest age; and

17 WHEREAS, There is solid scientific evidence for the effectiveness of the Reach
18 Out and Read Program, developed in the Department of Pediatrics of the Boston City
19 Hospital; and

20 WHEREAS, The Program is based on pediatricians prescribing reading at each
21 well child visit and following up with a gift of the child's very own book; and

1 WHEREAS, The Program also involves reading by volunteers in the waiting
2 room; and

3 WHEREAS, The Program targets children who are not likely to own a book; and

4 WHEREAS, The Program trains pediatricians and other child health care
5 providers to promote literacy to all of their patients; and

6 WHEREAS, National book publishers participate in the Program and sell books
7 to clinics and pediatric offices at very low prices; and

8 WHEREAS, The Annie E. Casey Foundation funded the Program in 12 primary
9 care clinics in Baltimore City in 1997, but additional funding is needed to support the
10 Program in those clinics; and

11 WHEREAS, Maryland's pediatricians are seeking training and support for the
12 Program; and

13 WHEREAS, Maryland's library systems promote a program to give a library
14 card to very young children, and this program is easily incorporated in the Program;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The Program could easily grow with corporate sponsorship,
17 allowing Maryland businesses to invest in early literacy with donations of books; now,
18 therefore,

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
20 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 **Article - Education**

22 5-213.

23 (A) THE STATE BOARD SHALL DISTRIBUTE GRANTS EACH YEAR TO
24 ORGANIZATIONS THAT:

25 (1) PROMOTE LITERACY AT AN EARLY AGE DURING WELL CHILD VISITS
26 IN A HEALTH CARE SETTING; AND

27 (2) SOLICIT THE CORPORATE COMMUNITY FOR FUNDING FOR
28 PROMOTING LITERACY AT AN EARLY AGE.

29 (B) AN ORGANIZATION THAT IS AWARDED A GRANT BY THE STATE BOARD
30 UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL USE THE GRANT TO:

31 (1) PURCHASE BOOKS TO BE DISTRIBUTED AT WELL CHILD VISITS IN
32 THE HEALTH CARE SETTING; AND

33 (2) TRAIN PEDIATRICIANS AND OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS ON
34 METHODS OF PROMOTING LITERACY TO ALL MARYLAND CHILDREN.

1 (C) IN FISCAL YEAR 2001 AND EVERY FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE
2 GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE FUNDS IN THE STATE BUDGET TO IMPLEMENT THIS
3 SECTION.

4 (D) THE STATE BOARD MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS
5 SECTION.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 June 1, 2000.