88R3486 AMF-D

By:  Harris of Williamson H.B. No. 1974

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a statewide Imagination Library program by the State Board of Education.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter Z, Chapter 33, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 33.911 to read as follows:

Sec. 33.911.  STATEWIDE IMAGINATION LIBRARY PROGRAM. (a) In this section, "board" means the State Board of Education.

(b)  Using money described by Subsection (d), the board shall establish a statewide Imagination Library program in partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library or a similar book distribution program to encourage children to develop a love of reading and learning by mailing age-appropriate books on a monthly basis to children five years of age or younger who register for the program.

(c)  The board shall:

(1)  identify and recruit local affiliates across the state to participate in the program;

(2)  assist local affiliates in the development, coordination, and promotion of the program in the affiliates' respective communities;

(3)  develop, coordinate, and promote a statewide public awareness campaign to inform:

(A)  donors regarding opportunities to financially support the program and local affiliates; and

(B)  the public regarding the program, including how to register eligible children into the program; and

(4)  coordinate the collection and remittance of program costs for books and mailing.

(d)  The board may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations from any public or private source for purposes of the program.

(e)  The board may adopt rules as necessary to implement this section.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.