

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 2, 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

1 financially support the program and local affiliates; and

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

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

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

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

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