

SENATE FILE NO. SF0014

Wyoming imagination library program.

Sponsored by: Joint Education Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to education; establishing the Wyoming  
2 imagination library program; providing funding for the free  
3 distribution of books to young children as specified;  
4 providing definitions; creating an account; requiring  
5 rulemaking; providing an appropriation; and providing for  
6 an effective date.

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8 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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10 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-2-205 is created to read:

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12 **21-2-205. Wyoming imagination library program.**

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14 (a) As used in this section:

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1           (i) "County based affiliate program" means a  
2 local affiliate of the Wyoming imagination library program  
3 that operates within a county;

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5           (ii) "Participating county" means a county with  
6 not less than one (1) county based affiliate program;

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8           (iii) "Registered eligible child" means a child  
9 from birth to five (5) years of age who resides in this  
10 state and who is registered in a county based affiliate  
11 program.

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13           (b) The Wyoming imagination library program is  
14 created to be administered by the department of education.  
15 The purpose of the program shall be to promote the  
16 development of a comprehensive statewide initiative for  
17 encouraging children from birth to five (5) years of age to  
18 develop a love of reading and learning.

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20           (c) The department of education shall coordinate with  
21 a nonprofit entity, qualified under section 501(c)(3) of  
22 the Internal Revenue Code and organized solely to promote  
23 and encourage reading by children, to:

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2 (i) Provide at least one (1) age appropriate  
3 book to each registered eligible child in each  
4 participating county monthly at no cost to families;

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6 (ii) Promote the statewide development of county  
7 based affiliate programs and advance and strengthen the  
8 county based affiliate programs to increase enrollment;

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10 (iii) Develop a public awareness campaign to  
11 promote the program and ensure the public is aware of the  
12 opportunity to register eligible children to receive free  
13 books through the program;

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15 (iv) Administer the county based affiliate  
16 program funding match requirement as specified in  
17 subsection (d) of this section and coordinate the  
18 collection and remittance of books;

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20 (v) Solicit donations, gifts and other funding  
21 to financially support county based affiliate programs.

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1           (d) Each participating county based affiliate program  
2 shall contribute fifty percent (50%) of the funds required  
3 for the program to operate in the county directly to the  
4 department of education. The department of education shall  
5 manage the funds received by each participating county  
6 based affiliate program. To the extent that funds are  
7 available in the Wyoming imagination library program  
8 account created in subsection (e) of this section, the  
9 department of education shall provide to each participating  
10 county based affiliate program an additional amount from  
11 the Wyoming imagination library program account not to  
12 exceed the amount of funds received from each participating  
13 county based affiliate program.

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15           (e) There is created the Wyoming imagination library  
16 program account. The account shall include all legislative  
17 appropriations and all monies received from grants, gifts,  
18 transfers, bequests and donations to the account. The  
19 account is authorized to accept grants, gifts, transfers,  
20 bequests and donations. All monies received shall be  
21 deposited into the account. Notwithstanding W.S. 9-2-1008,  
22 9-2-1012(e) or 9-4-207, unobligated and unexpended funds in  
23 the account shall not lapse or revert and shall remain in

1 the account and be available for distribution as provided  
2 in this section.

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4 (f) Monies deposited into the Wyoming imagination  
5 library program account shall be continuously appropriated  
6 to and expended by the department of education to  
7 administer the Wyoming imagination library program  
8 established under subsection (b) of this section and to  
9 provide the state's share of any matching funds as required  
10 under subsection (d) of this section.

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12 (g) Funds in the Wyoming imagination library program  
13 account shall be invested by the state treasurer pursuant  
14 to law and the investment earnings shall be credited to the  
15 account.

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17 (h) The department of education shall promulgate  
18 rules necessary to carry out this section.

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20 **Section 2.** There is appropriated three hundred twenty  
21 thousand dollars (\$320,000.00) from the general fund to the  
22 Wyoming imagination library program account created in  
23 section 1 of this act. This appropriation shall be for the

1 period beginning with the effective date of this act. This  
2 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any  
3 other purpose. Notwithstanding W.S. 9-2-1008, 9-2-1012(e)  
4 and 9-4-207 this appropriation shall not revert. It is the  
5 intent of the legislature that this appropriation shall be  
6 included in the department of education's standard budget  
7 for the immediately succeeding fiscal biennium.

8

9 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2025.

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(END)