

# HB319 INTRODUCED



1 HB319  
2 IUPC6Z6-1  
3 By Representative Collins  
4 RFD: Ways and Means Education  
5 First Read: 20-Feb-25



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would create the Imagination Library of Alabama Program to provide free age-appropriate books to children throughout the state through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to the Department of Early Childhood Education; to create the Imagination Library of Alabama Program to provide free age-appropriate books to children through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library; to require the department to coordinate with a nonprofit entity to operate the program; and to require the department to adopt rules as needed for the administration of the program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) To promote the development of a comprehensive statewide initiative for encouraging preschool age children to develop a love of reading and learning, the Department of Early Childhood Education may develop, fund, support, promote, and operate the Imagination Library of Alabama Program, which is established by this section. For



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29 purposes of this section, "state program" means the  
30 Imagination Library of Alabama Program.

31 (b) State program funds shall be used to provide,  
32 through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, one  
33 age-appropriate book, per month, to each registered child from  
34 birth to age five in participating counties. Books shall be  
35 sent monthly to each registered child's home at no cost to  
36 families. Subject to an annual appropriation, the Department  
37 of Early Childhood Education shall contribute the state's  
38 matching funds per the cost-sharing framework established by  
39 Dolly Parton's Imagination Library for the state program. The  
40 state program shall contribute the 50 percent match of funds  
41 required of local programs participating in Dolly Parton's  
42 Imagination Library. Local program partners shall match the  
43 state program funds to provide the remaining 50 percent match  
44 of funds required by Dolly Parton's Imagination Library as  
45 described in paragraph (2)a.

46 (1) The Imagination Library of Alabama Fund is created  
47 as a special fund in the State Treasury. The Department of  
48 Early Childhood Education may accept gifts, grants, awards,  
49 donations, matching contributions, appropriations, interest  
50 income, public or private bequests, and cost sharings from any  
51 individual, business, government, or other third-party source,  
52 and any federal funds. All monies received pursuant to this  
53 section shall be deposited into the State Treasury to the  
54 credit of the Imagination Library of Alabama Fund. Amounts  
55 deposited into the fund shall be budgeted and allotted in  
56 accordance with Sections 41-4-80 through 41-4-96 and Sections



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57 41-19-1 through 41-19-12, Code of Alabama 1975. Any monies  
58 that are unobligated or unexpended at the end of a fiscal year  
59 shall remain in the Imagination Library of Alabama Fund, shall  
60 not lapse into the State General Fund, and shall be available  
61 to the department for expenditure in the next fiscal year,  
62 subject to appropriation.

63 (2) Monies received pursuant to this section are  
64 subject to appropriation by the Legislature and may only be  
65 expended for purposes consistent with the conditions under  
66 which the monies were received including, but not limited to,  
67 the following:

68 a. Subject to availability, monies in the fund shall be  
69 allocated to qualified local entities that provide a  
70 dollar-for-dollar match for the program. As used in this  
71 section, "qualified local entity" means any existing or new  
72 local Dolly Parton's Imagination Library affiliate.

73 b. Monies in the fund may be used by the Department of  
74 Early Childhood Education to pay for administrative expenses  
75 of the state program, including associated operating expenses  
76 of the department or any nonprofit entity that coordinates the  
77 state program pursuant to subsection (c).

78 (c) The Department of Early Childhood Education shall  
79 coordinate with a nonprofit entity qualified under 26 U.S.C. §  
80 501(c)(3) to operate the state program. That organization  
81 shall be organized solely to promote and encourage reading by  
82 the children of this state, for the purpose of implementing  
83 this section.

84 (d) The Department of Early Childhood Education shall



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85 provide oversight of the nonprofit entity that operates the  
86 state program pursuant to subsection (c) to ensure the  
87 nonprofit entity does all of the following:

88 (1) Promotes the statewide development of local Dolly  
89 Parton's Imagination Library programs.

90 (2) Advances and strengthens local Dolly Parton's  
91 Imagination Library programs with the goal of increasing  
92 enrollment.

93 (3) Develops community engagement.

94 (4) Develops, promotes, and coordinates a public  
95 awareness campaign to make donors aware of the opportunity to  
96 donate to the affiliate programs and make the public aware of  
97 the opportunity to register eligible children to receive books  
98 through the program.

99 (5) Administers the local match requirement and  
100 coordinates the collection and remittance of local program  
101 costs for books and mailing.

102 (6) Develops statewide marketing and communication  
103 plans.

104 (7) Solicits donations, gifts, and other funding from  
105 statewide partners to financially support local Dolly Parton's  
106 Imagination Library programs.

107 (8) Identifies and applies for available grant awards.

108 (e) The Department of Early Childhood Education shall  
109 make publicly available on an annual basis information  
110 regarding the number of local programs that exist, where the  
111 local programs are located, the number of children that are  
112 enrolled in the program, the number of books that have been



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113 provided, and the names of those entities or organizations  
114 that serve as local partners.

115 (f) The Department of Early Childhood Education may  
116 adopt rules as may be needed for the administration of the  
117 Imagination Library of Alabama Program.

118 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October  
119 1, 2025.