

House Bill 367

By: Representatives Scott of the 76th and Davis of the 87th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 9 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to grants for educational programs under the "Quality Basic Education
3 Act," so as to provide for up to \$500,000 in matching grants by the State Board of Education
4 to local units of administration for the purpose of providing home reading programs for
5 students in kindergarten through fifth grade; to authorize the State Board of Education to
6 receive and administer federal funds for such grants; to provide for the prioritization of
7 economically disadvantaged households; to provide for eligibility; to require the State Board
8 of Education to develop rules and regulations; to provide for related matters; to repeal
9 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 Part 9 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
13 relating to grants for educational programs under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is
14 amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

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"20-2-259.1.

(a) The State Board of Education shall provide matching grants, subject to available funding, to qualified local units of administration to provide an eligible home reading program for students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Such matching grant funds shall be distributed by the Department of Education with a focus on economically disadvantaged households.

(b) A home reading program is eligible for matching grant funds provided pursuant to this Code section if it is provided in partnership with an affiliated local unit of administration by a nonprofit organization that meets the following requirements:

(1) Delivers an evidence based, self selected reading program consisting of independent reading level books that are individually mailed to the residences of kindergarten through fifth grade students on a weekly basis;

(2) Incorporates at least weekly phone calls, texts, or application notifications in multiple languages to a parent or guardian to drive parental and family engagement throughout the duration of the program;

(3) Provides at least six and not more than nine new student selected books that students shall be permitted to keep;

(4) Builds on pedagogical principles of literacy instruction to scaffold fluency and improve reading comprehension with student exercises;

(5) Includes a customizable portal to generate individualized data reports for analysis of student progress by program providers, affiliated local units of administration, and parents and guardians;

(6) Collects, disaggregates, and distributes detailed data on all metrics of the program, such as engagement of parents or guardians, books read, and allowable demographic data;

(7) Provides a summary of data on all students served by the program to the Department of Education;

41 (8) Agrees to secure the required matching funds from the participating local unit of
42 administration and maintain auditable verification of the receipt; and

43 (9) The combined total cost of the program, including district matching funds, does not
44 exceed \$50.00 per student per semester.

45 (c) The total amount of matching grant funds provided by the State Board of Education
46 pursuant to this Code section shall not exceed \$500,000.00 each state fiscal year.

47 (d) The State Board of Education is authorized to receive and administer federal funds,
48 including, but not limited to, funds from the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund, to provide
49 matching grant funds pursuant to this Code section. The Department of Education shall
50 serve as a state level flow through point for any available federal funding.

51 (e) The State Board of Education shall prescribe criteria, policies, and standards deemed
52 necessary for the effective implementation of this Code section."

53 **SECTION 2.**

54 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.