

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2023  
4

As Engrossed: S3/15/23

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 416

5 By: Senators C. Tucker, B. Davis, L. Chesterfield, Irvin, *J. Dotson*  
6 By: Representatives Evans, *C. Fite, Brooks, V. Flowers, Vaught, D. Garner*  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE IMAGINATION LIBRARY OF ARKANSAS  
10 PROGRAM; TO CREATE THE IMAGINATION LIBRARY OF  
11 ARKANSAS PROGRAM FUND; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

15 TO CREATE THE IMAGINATION LIBRARY OF  
16 ARKANSAS PROGRAM; AND TO CREATE THE  
17 IMAGINATION LIBRARY OF ARKANSAS PROGRAM  
18 FUND.  
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 13, Chapter 2, Subchapter 1, is amended  
24 to add an additional section to read as follows:

25 13-2-106. Imagination Library of Arkansas Program.

26 (a) There is created the Imagination Library of Arkansas Program.

27 (b) The state program shall promote the development of a comprehensive  
28 statewide initiative for encouraging preschool children to develop a love of  
29 reading and learning.

30 (c)(1)(A) The Imagination Library of Arkansas Program Fund shall be  
31 used to provide, through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, one (1) age-  
32 appropriate book to each registered child from birth to age five (5) in each  
33 participating county.

34 (B) The state program shall contribute a fifty percent  
35 (50%) match of the funds, if available, required of local programs  
36 participating in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.



1           (2) A book shall be sent monthly to the home of each registered  
2 child from birth to age five (5) in each participating county at no cost to  
3 the family of a registered child.

4           (d) The Department of Education shall partner with a nonprofit entity  
5 organized solely to promote and encourage reading in early childhood for the  
6 children of Arkansas, including without limitation Arkansas Imagination  
7 Library, to administer the state program, which shall include without  
8 limitation the following:

9           (1) Promoting the statewide development of county-level Dolly  
10 Parton's Imagination Library programs;

11           (2) Advancing and strengthening local Dolly Parton's Imagination  
12 Library programs with the goal of increasing family enrollment in those  
13 programs;

14           (3) Recruiting volunteers to assist in the development,  
15 promotion, and coordination of the state program;

16           (4) Soliciting donations, gifts, and other funding to  
17 financially support the local Dolly Parton's Imagination Library programs;

18           (5) Developing community engagement;

19           (6) Administering the state and local programs' dollar matching  
20 requirements;

21           (7) Coordinating the collection and remittance of local program  
22 costs for books and mailing; and

23           (8) Developing statewide marketing and communication plans.

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25           SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 19, Chapter 5, Subchapter 12, is  
26 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

27           19-5-1277. Imagination Library of Arkansas Program Fund.

28           (a) There is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, the  
29 Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a miscellaneous  
30 fund to be known as the "Imagination Library of Arkansas Program Fund".

31           (b) The fund shall consist of:

32           (1) Moneys obtained from private or public grants, gifts, or  
33 donations that are designated to be credited to the fund; and

34           (2) Any other funds authorized or provided by law.

35           (c) The fund shall be used by the Department of Education to create  
36 and maintain the Imagination Library of Arkansas Program under § 13-2-106.

1           (d) Moneys remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year shall  
2 carry forward and be made available for the purposes stated in this section  
3 in the next fiscal year.

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*/s/C. Tucker*

**APPROVED: 4/11/23**