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SENATE BILL NO. 558

Offered January 26, 1998

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-208.2:1.1, relating to incentive grants for reading programs in the public schools.

Patrons—Woods, Couric, Edwards, Houck, Howell, Lambert, Lucas, Quayle and Saslaw; Delegates: Baker, Bennett, Brink, Councill, Crittenden, Darner, Day, Dillard, Griffith, Hamilton, Hull, Keating, Landes, McDonnell, O'Brien, Puller, Rhodes, Spruill, Tata, Van Yahres and Wagner

Referred to the Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-208.2:1.1 as follows:

§ 22.1-208.2:1.1. Reading Incentive Grants Program and Fund.

A. From such funds as may be appropriated for such purpose and from such gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and other funds as may be received on its behalf, there is hereby established the Reading Incentive Grants Program, to be administered by the Board of Education, and a special nonreverting fund within the Department of the Treasury known as the Reading Incentive Grants Fund. The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller, and any moneys remaining in such Fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Interest earned on such funds shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it.

The Department of the Treasury shall administer and manage the Fund, subject to the authority of the Board of Education to provide for its disbursement. The Fund shall be disbursed to award grants on a competitive basis to public schools demonstrating low pupil academic performance. Such grants shall be used to support successful reading programs, including, but not limited to, the Virginia Reading Recovery Program established pursuant to § 22.1-208.2.

B. The Board shall establish criteria for making grants from the Fund, including school eligibility criteria and indicators of low pupil academic performance, and procedures for determining amounts for grants to eligible public schools. The Board may issue guidelines governing the Program as it deems necessary and appropriate.

INTRODUCED

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