

Senator Stephen H. Urquhart proposes the following substitute bill:

EARLY READING AMENDMENTS

2015 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Stephen H. Urquhart

House Sponsor: Bradley G. Last

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions related to early reading assessments and interventions in public schools.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ amends provisions related to a diagnostic assessment system for early reading;
- ▶ requires the State Board of Education to distribute licenses for early reading software to a school district or charter school by a certain date;
- ▶ requires a ~~S~~ **S** ~~→ [school-district or charter] public ← S~~ school that receives a license for early reading software to comply with certain standards;
- ▶ directs the State Board of Education to establish certain standards;
- ▶ provides for evaluation of the use of early reading software; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:



119 licenses for ~~[an interactive computer software program]~~ early interactive reading software
 120 described in Subsection (6)(a) to school districts and charter schools that apply for the licenses.

121 (c) ~~[A]~~ Except as provided in Subsection (7)(c), a school district or charter school that
 122 received a license described in Subsection (6)(b) during the prior year shall be given first
 123 priority to receive an equivalent license during the current year.

124 (d) Licenses distributed to school districts and charter schools in addition to the
 125 licenses described in Subsection (6)(c) shall be distributed through a competitive process.

126 ~~[(7) On or before November 1, 2013, and every year thereafter, the State Board of~~
 127 ~~Education shall report final testing data regarding an interactive computer software program~~
 128 ~~described in Subsection (6), including student learning gains as a result of the interactive~~
 129 ~~computer software program, to:]~~

130 ~~[(a) the Education Interim Committee; and]~~

131 ~~[(b) the governor.]~~

132 (7) (a) As used in this Subsection (7), "dosage" means amount of instructional time.

133 (b) A ~~§~~→ [school-district or charter] public ←~~§~~ school that receives a license described in
 133a Subsection

134 (6)(b) shall use the license:

135 (i) for a student in kindergarten or grade 1:

136 (A) for intervention for the student if the student is reading below grade level; or

137 (B) for advancement beyond grade level for the student if the student is reading at or
 138 above grade level;

139 (ii) for a student in grade 2 or 3, for intervention for the student if the student is reading
 140 below grade level; and

141 (iii) in accordance with the technology provider's dosage recommendations.

142 (c) A ~~§~~→ [school-district or charter] public ←~~§~~ school that does not use the early
 142a interactive reading

143 software in accordance with the technology provider's dosage recommendations for two
 144 consecutive years may not continue to receive a license.

145 (8) (a) On or before August 1 of each year, the State Board of Education shall select
 146 and contract with an independent evaluator, through a request for proposals process, to act as
 147 an independent contractor to evaluate early interactive reading software provided under this
 148 section.

149 (b) The State Board of Education shall ensure that a contract with an independent

150 evaluator requires the independent evaluator to:

151 (i) ~~§~~ **→** [compare] evaluate ~~←§~~ a student's learning gains as a result of using early

151a interactive reading

152 software provided under ~~§~~ **→** [this section to a control group] Subsection (6) ~~←§~~ :

153 (ii) for the ~~§~~ **→** [comparison] evaluation ~~←§~~ under Subsection (8)(b)(i), use an assessment

153a that is not

154 developed by a provider of early interactive reading software: ~~§~~ **→** and ~~←§~~

155 (iii) determine the extent to which a ~~§~~ **→** [school-district or charter] public ~~←§~~ school uses

155a the early

156 interactive reading software in accordance with a technology provider's dosage

157 recommendations under Subsection (7) ~~§~~ **→** ; ~~and~~

158 ~~—— (iv) calculate the per-student cost of early interactive reading software provided by a~~

159 ~~provider]~~ ~~←§~~ .

160 (c) The State Board of Education and the independent evaluator selected under

161 Subsection (8)(a) shall report annually on the results of the evaluation to the Education Interim

162 Committee and the governor.

163 (d) The State Board of Education may use up to ~~§~~ **→** [5%] 4% ~~←§~~ of the appropriation

163a provided

164 under Subsection (6)(a) to contract with an independent evaluator selected under Subsection

165 (8)(a).