

**JBC STAFF FISCAL ANALYSIS  
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPLY ACCESSIBLE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FOR STUDENTS WITH PRINT DISABILITIES, AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION THEREFOR.

Prime Sponsors: Representative Green  
Senator Windels

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**Summary of Amendments Made to the Bill After the 03/16/06 Legislative Council Staff Revised Fiscal Note was Prepared**

None.

**JBC Staff Concurrence with Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note**

**Concurs**       **Does Not Concur**       **Updated Analysis**

**Amendments/Appropriation Status**

The bill does not currently include, nor does it require, an appropriation for FY 2006-07. The bill, as amended through a "strike below" amendment in the House Education Committee, authorizes the use of moneys in the Read-to-Achieve Cash Fund for the new Reading Assistance Grant Program created by the bill. The bill includes an appropriation of \$300,000 cash funds exempt from the Read-to-Achieve Cash Fund to the Reading Assistance Grant Program Fund for *FY 2007-08*. Moneys in the newly created Reading Assistance Grant Program Fund are continuously appropriated to the Department, but annual grant awards are limited to a total of \$60,000. The Department is authorized to spend up to one percent of the moneys appropriated to the new Fund for administrative costs.

**Sponsor Amendments**

Sponsor amendment **L.014** makes the following modifications to the House Education Committee Report:

- specifies that "student with a print disability" means a student enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade (rather than kindergarten through 3rd grade);

- specifies that "student with a print disability" means a student who experiences difficulties in achieving the state model content standards and for whom the student's school district does not receive state or federal moneys for special education services (rather than a student with an individual literacy plan);
- adds a criterion, requiring an eligible organization to have the ability to distribute assistive technology equipment and other services through a statewide loan bank targeted toward students with print disabilities;
- authorizes the State Board of Education to award grants through the Reading Assistance Grant Program beginning in FY 2006-07 (rather than FY 2007-08);
- requires grant recipients to submit a report to the Department on or before October 1, 2007 (rather than 2008), and requires the Department to submit to the Governor and the Education Committees a report on concerning the program on or before January 1, 2008 (rather than 2009); and
- appropriates \$300,000 cash funds exempt from the Read-to-Achieve Cash Fund to the Reading Assistance Grant Program Fund for FY 2006-07 (rather than FY 2007-08).

**Sponsor amendment L.014 would change the fiscal impact of the bill, as follows:**

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary</b>	<b>FY 2006/2007</b>	<b>FY 2007/2008</b>
<b>State Revenues</b>		
Cash Funds Exempt - Reading Assistance Grant Program Fund	\$300,000 gifts, grants & donations	gifts, grants & donations
<b>State Expenditures</b>		
Cash Funds Exempt - Read-to-Achieve Cash Fund	\$300,000	
Reading Assistance Grant Program Fund - grants	60,000	60,000
Reading Assistance Grant Program Fund - administration	3,000	0
<b>FTE Position Change</b>	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2006/2007:</b> \$300,000 cash funds exempt from the Read-to-Achieve Cash Fund to the Reading Assistance Grant Program Fund		

**If amendment L.014 is adopted, no further appropriation is necessary for FY 2006-07.**

**Points to Consider**

1. The bill, as amended by the House Education Committee, authorizes the use of moneys in the Read-to-Achieve Cash Fund for the new Reading Assistance Grant Program; it appropriates \$300,000 cash funds exempt from the Read-to-Achieve Cash Fund to the Reading Assistance Grant Program Fund for *FY 2007-08*. [If sponsor amendment L.014 is adopted, this appropriation would be for FY 2006-07.] The Read-to-Achieve Grant Program is currently funded from tobacco settlement funds (an estimated \$4,369,567 for FY 2006-07).

Further, as noted in the Legislative Council Staff Revised Fiscal Note dated March 16, 2006, each General Assembly is a separate entity, and the acts of one General Assembly are not binding on future General Assemblies. Accordingly, no legislation passed by one General Assembly requiring an appropriation (e.g., for FY 2007-08) shall bind future General Assemblies.

2. The bill, as amended by the House Education Committee, (as well as sponsor amendment L.014), provides a continuous appropriation to the Department from the Reading Assistance Grant Program Fund and it authorizes the Department to spend up to 1.0 percent of the moneys appropriated *to the* Fund to offset the costs incurred in implementing the program. This allows the Department to spend up to \$3,000 in FY 2006-07 for administrative costs, and \$0 in subsequent fiscal years until another appropriation is made to the Fund from the Read-to-Achieve Cash Fund.