

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Education to which was referred Senate Bill No. 15
3 entitled “An act relating to providing supplemental reading instruction in all
4 schools” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends
5 that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and
6 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 2903 is amended to read:

8 § 2903. PREVENTING EARLY SCHOOL FAILURE; READING
9 INSTRUCTION

10 (a) Statement of policy. The ability to read is critical to success in learning.
11 Children who fail to read by the end of the first grade will likely fall further
12 behind in school. The personal and economic costs of reading failure are
13 enormous both while the student remains in school and long afterward. All
14 students need to receive systematic and explicit evidence-based reading
15 instruction in the early grades from a teacher who is skilled in teaching the
16 foundational components of reading, including phonemic awareness, phonics,
17 fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Students who require intensive
18 supplemental instruction tailored to the unique difficulties encountered shall be
19 provided those additional supports by an appropriately trained education
20 professional.

21 (b) Foundation for literacy.

1 (1) The Agency of Education, in collaboration with the State Board of
2 Education, the Agency of Human Services, higher education, literacy
3 organizations, and others, shall develop a plan for establishing a
4 comprehensive system of services for early education in public schools that
5 offer instruction in grades kindergarten through grade three to ensure that all
6 students learn to read by the end of the third grade. The plan shall be updated
7 at least once every five years following its initial submission in 1998.

8 (2) Approved independent schools that are eligible to receive public
9 tuition shall develop a grade-level appropriate school literacy plan that is
10 informed by student needs and assessment data. The plan may include
11 identification of a literacy vision, goals, and priorities and shall address the
12 following topics:

13 (A) measures and indicators;

14 (B) screening, assessment, instruction and intervention, and progress
15 monitoring, consistent with section 2907 of this title; and

16 (C) professional learning activities consistent with section 1710 of
17 this title.

18 (c) Reading instruction. A public school or approved independent school
19 that is eligible to receive public tuition that offers instruction in grades
20 kindergarten, one, two, or three shall provide systematic and explicit evidence-
21 based reading instruction to all students. In addition, ~~such~~ for students in

1 grades kindergarten through 12, public schools and approved independent
2 schools that are eligible to receive public tuition shall provide supplemental
3 reading instruction to any enrolled student whose reading proficiency falls
4 significantly below proficiency standards for the student's grade level or
5 whose reading proficiency prevents progress in school. Schools shall provide
6 support and information to the parents and legal guardians of such students
7 ~~regarding the student's current level of reading proficiency, which shall be~~
8 ~~based on valid and reliable assessments.~~

9 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

10 This act shall take effect on passage.
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17 (Committee vote: _____)
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Senator _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE