

18A:6-110

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

Compiled by the NJ State Law Library

LAWS OF: 2001 **CHAPTER:** 292

NJSA: 18A:6-110 (Spread the Word Program)

BILL NO: A3151 (Substituted for S2232)

SPONSOR(S): Azzolina and Thompson

DATE INTRODUCED: January 23, 2001

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Education

SENATE: Education

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY** June 28, 2001

SENATE: December 17, 2001

DATE OF APPROVAL: December 28, 2001

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (1st reprint enacted)

(Amendments during passage denoted by superscript numbers)

A3151

SPONSORS STATEMENT: (Begins on page 3 of original bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

SENATE: Yes

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

S2232

SPONSORS STATEMENT: (Begins on page 2 of original bill) Yes

Bill and Sponsors Statement identical to A3151

COMMITTEE STATEMENT:

ASSEMBLY: No

SENATE: Yes

Identical to Assembly Statement for A3151

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: Yes

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

ASSEMBLY, No. 3151

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 209th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 23, 2001

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOSEPH AZZOLINA

District 13 (Middlesex and Monmouth)

Assemblyman SAMUEL D. THOMPSON

District 13 (Middlesex and Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Arnone

SYNOPSIS

Establishes the Spread the Word Program in DOE to provide donated books to certain elementary school children.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/16/2001)

1 AN ACT establishing the Spread the Word Program in the Department
2 of Education and supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. a. There is established the Spread the Word Program in the
9 Department of Education. The purpose of the program is to provide
10 books to elementary school children in grades kindergarten through
11 five. Under the program, donating schools shall collect books from
12 children and families who have extra books at home, and these books
13 shall be donated to recipient schools for distribution to children who
14 have few books at home. The program shall be county-based and shall
15 be administered by the county superintendent of schools.

16 b. Prior to the start of each school year, the department shall send
17 to each elementary school in the State an informational brochure on
18 the program. If the school is interested in participating in the program
19 as a donating school, the principal shall contact the county
20 superintendent of schools to receive further information on program
21 participation.

22 c. A donating school shall conduct book drives. When the drive is
23 finished, the school shall review the donated books to ensure that they
24 are age-appropriate and in satisfactory condition. After the review,
25 the school shall count, sort and pack the books and contact the county
26 superintendent of schools to report the approximate number of books
27 collected and the number of boxes needed to be transported. The
28 county superintendent of schools shall arrange for the books to be
29 transported from the donating school to an eligible recipient school.
30 The State shall assume the costs of transporting the donated books to
31 the recipient school.

32 d. The State Board of Education shall determine criteria for
33 choosing recipient schools which shall be based, at least in part, on the
34 number of low-income pupils attending the school. The county
35 superintendent of schools shall contact schools within the county that
36 meet the criteria and provide information regarding the program. An
37 eligible school that is interested in receiving donated books under the
38 program shall inform the county superintendent of schools.

39
40 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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This bill establishes the Spread the Word Program in the Department of Education. Under the program, donating schools would collect books from children and families who have extra books, and these books would be donated to recipient schools for distribution to children who have few books. The program is targeted to elementary school children in grades kindergarten through five. The program will be county-based and will be administered by the county superintendent of schools.

A donating school will conduct book drives and review any donated books to ensure that they are age-appropriate and in satisfactory condition. After the review, the school will contact the county superintendent of schools to arrange for the books to be transported to an eligible recipient school. The State will pay for the costs of transporting the donated books. Recipient schools will be chosen based on criteria developed by the State Board of Education which shall be based, at least in part, on the number of low-income pupils attending the school.

This program is modeled on the Massachusetts Spread the Word Program which was recently a recipient of the prestigious Council of State Governments' 2000 Innovations Award. The program recognizes the fact that the bookshelves in many homes are overflowing with books that children have outgrown and provides a means of getting these extra books into the hands of young children with few or no books at home. These books give children the opportunity to develop their reading and writing skills at home with books that are theirs to keep and treasure.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3151

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 21, 2001

The Assembly Education Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 3151 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill establishes the Spread the Word Program in the Department of Education. Under the program, donating schools would collect books from children and families who have extra books, and these books would be donated to recipient schools for distribution to children who have few books. The program is targeted to elementary school children in grades kindergarten through five. The program will be county-based and will be administered by the county superintendent of schools.

Prior to the beginning of each school year, the department would send to each elementary school in the State an informational brochure on the program. If a school is interested in participating in the program, the principal would contact the county superintendent.

A donating school will conduct book drives and review any donated books to ensure that they are age-appropriate and in satisfactory condition. The school will count, sort and pack the books and then contact the county superintendent to arrange for the books to be transported to an eligible recipient school. The State will pay for the costs of transporting the donated books. Recipient schools will be chosen based on criteria developed by the State Board of Education which shall be based, at least in part, on the number of low-income pupils attending the school. The county superintendent will contact schools within the county which meet the criteria and provide information regarding the program.

The committee amended the bill to require the Commissioner of Education to assign a person on a part-time basis to serve as the coordinator of the program and provide a \$25,000 appropriation for this purpose.

This program is modeled on the Massachusetts Spread the Word Program which was a recipient of the Council of State Governments' 2000 Innovations Award. The program recognizes the fact that the bookshelves in many homes are overflowing with books that children have outgrown and provides a means of getting these extra books into

the hands of young children with few or no books at home. These books give children the opportunity to develop their reading and writing skills at home with books that are theirs to keep and treasure.

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3151

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
209th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 23, 2001

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOSEPH AZZOLINA

District 13 (Middlesex and Monmouth)

Assemblyman SAMUEL D. THOMPSON

District 13 (Middlesex and Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

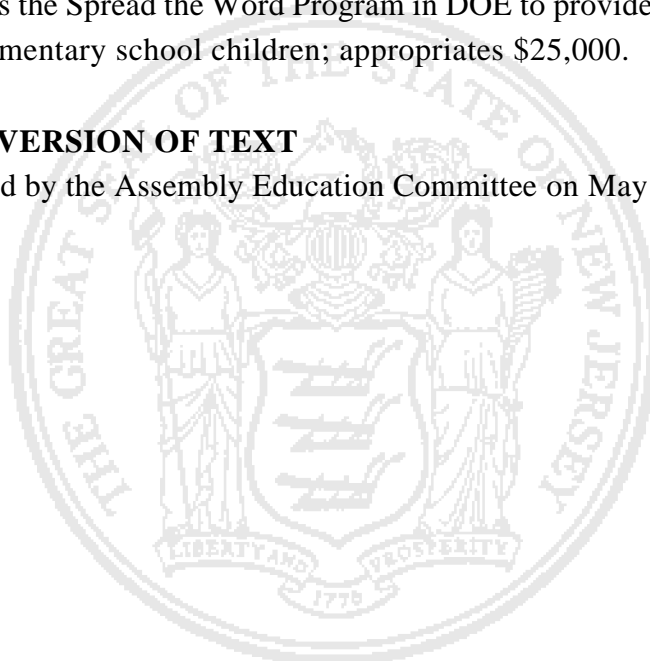
**Assemblymen Arnone, Bateman, Conaway, Assemblywoman Heck,
Assemblyman Malone, Assemblywoman Previte, Senators Allen,
Matheussen, Kavanaugh and Palaia**

SYNOPSIS

Establishes the Spread the Word Program in DOE to provide donated books to certain elementary school children; appropriates \$25,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Education Committee on May 21, 2001, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/18/2001)

1 AN ACT establishing the Spread the Word Program in the Department
2 of Education ¹[and],¹ supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A of the
3 New Jersey Statutes ¹and making an appropriation¹.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. a. There is established the Spread the Word Program in the
9 Department of Education. The purpose of the program is to provide
10 books to elementary school children in grades kindergarten through
11 five. Under the program, donating schools shall collect books from
12 children and families who have extra books at home, and these books
13 shall be donated to recipient schools for distribution to children who
14 have few books at home. The program shall be county-based and shall
15 be administered by the county superintendent of schools.

16 b. Prior to the start of each school year, the department shall send
17 to each elementary school in the State an informational brochure on
18 the program. If the school is interested in participating in the program
19 as a donating school, the principal shall contact the county
20 superintendent of schools to receive further information on program
21 participation.

22 c. A donating school shall conduct book drives. When the drive is
23 finished, the school shall review the donated books to ensure that they
24 are age-appropriate and in satisfactory condition. After the review,
25 the school shall count, sort and pack the books and contact the county
26 superintendent of schools to report the approximate number of books
27 collected and the number of boxes needed to be transported. The
28 county superintendent of schools shall arrange for the books to be
29 transported from the donating school to an eligible recipient school.
30 The State shall assume the costs of transporting the donated books to
31 the recipient school.

32 d. The State Board of Education shall determine criteria for
33 choosing recipient schools which shall be based, at least in part, on the
34 number of low-income pupils attending the school. The county
35 superintendent of schools shall contact schools within the county that
36 meet the criteria and provide information regarding the program. An
37 eligible school that is interested in receiving donated books under the
38 program shall inform the county superintendent of schools.

39 ¹e. The Commissioner of Education shall assign a person on a part-
40 time basis to serve as the coordinator of the program.¹

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly AED committee amendments adopted May 21, 2001.

A3151 [1R] AZZOLINA, THOMPSON

3

1 ¹2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department
2 of Education \$25,000 to effectuate the provisions of subsection e. of
3 section 1 of this act.¹

4

5 ¹[2.] 3.¹ This act shall take effect immediately.

SENATE, No. 2232

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
209th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 26, 2001

Sponsored by:

Senator DIANE ALLEN

District 7 (Burlington and Camden)

Senator JOHN J. MATHEUSSEN

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

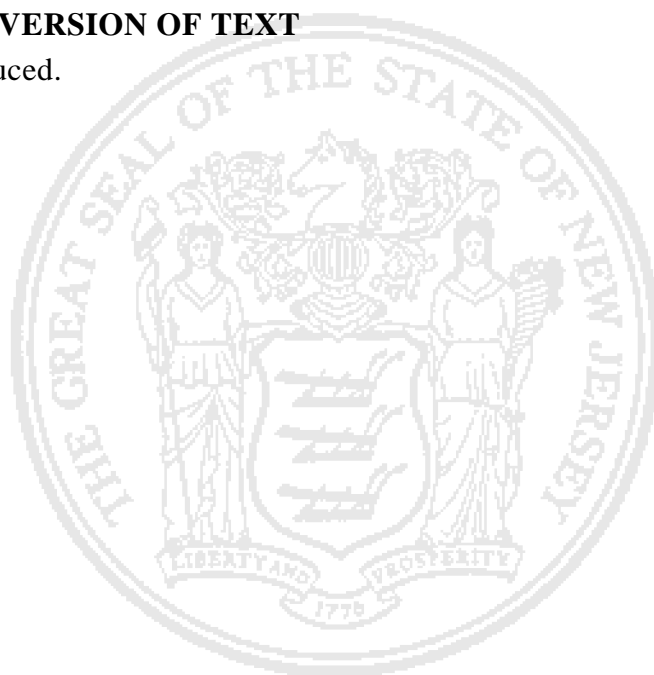
Senators Kavanaugh and Palaia

SYNOPSIS

Establishes the Spread the Word Program in DOE to provide donated books to certain elementary school children.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing the Spread the Word Program in the Department
2 of Education and supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

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8 1. a. There is established the Spread the Word Program in the
9 Department of Education. The purpose of the program is to provide
10 books to elementary school children in grades kindergarten through
11 five. Under the program, donating schools shall collect books from
12 children and families who have extra books at home, and these books
13 shall be donated to recipient schools for distribution to children who
14 have few books at home. The program shall be county-based and shall
15 be administered by the county superintendent of schools.

16 b. Prior to the start of each school year, the department shall send
17 to each elementary school in the State an informational brochure on
18 the program. If the school is interested in participating in the program
19 as a donating school, the principal shall contact the county
20 superintendent of schools to receive further information on program
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22 c. A donating school shall conduct book drives. When the drive is
23 finished, the school shall review the donated books to ensure that they
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26 superintendent of schools to report the approximate number of books
27 collected and the number of boxes needed to be transported. The
28 county superintendent of schools shall arrange for the books to be
29 transported from the donating school to an eligible recipient school.
30 The State shall assume the costs of transporting the donated books to
31 the recipient school.

32 d. The State Board of Education shall determine criteria for
33 choosing recipient schools which shall be based, at least in part, on the
34 number of low-income pupils attending the school. The county
35 superintendent of schools shall contact schools within the county that
36 meet the criteria and provide information regarding the program. An
37 eligible school that is interested in receiving donated books under the
38 program shall inform the county superintendent of schools.

39
40 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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42 STATEMENT

43
44 This bill establishes the Spread the Word Program in the
45 Department of Education. Under the program, donating schools
46 would collect books from children and families who have extra books,

1 and these books would be donated to recipient schools for distribution
2 to children who have few books. The program is targeted to
3 elementary school children in grades kindergarten through five. The
4 program will be county-based and will be administered by the county
5 superintendent of schools.

6 A donating school will conduct book drives and review any donated
7 books to ensure that they are age-appropriate and in satisfactory
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9 superintendent of schools to arrange for the books to be transported
10 to an eligible recipient school. The State will pay for the costs of
11 transporting the donated books. Recipient schools will be chosen
12 based on criteria developed by the State Board of Education which
13 shall be based, at least in part, on the number of low-income pupils
14 attending the school.

15 This program is modeled on the Massachusetts Spread the Word
16 Program which was recently a recipient of the prestigious Council of
17 State Governments' 2000 Innovations Award. The program
18 recognizes the fact that the bookshelves in many homes are
19 overflowing with books that children have outgrown and provides a
20 means of getting these extra books into the hands of young children
21 with few or no books at home. These books give children the
22 opportunity to develop their reading and writing skills at home with
23 books that are theirs to keep and treasure.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3151

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 13, 2001

The Senate Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3151 (1R).

This bill establishes the Spread the Word Program in the Department of Education. Under the program, donating schools would collect books from children and families who have extra books, and these books would be donated to recipient schools for distribution to children who have few books. The program is targeted to elementary school children in grades kindergarten through five. The program will be county-based and will be administered by the county superintendent of schools. A person will be assigned by the Commissioner of Education to serve on a part-time basis as the coordinator of the program.

Prior to the beginning of each school year, the department would send to each elementary school in the State an informational brochure on the program. If a school is interested in participating in the program, the principal would contact the county superintendent.

A donating school will conduct book drives and review any donated books to ensure that they are age-appropriate and in satisfactory condition. The school will count, sort and pack the books and then contact the county superintendent to arrange for the books to be transported to an eligible recipient school. The State will pay for the costs of transporting the donated books. Recipient schools will be chosen based on criteria developed by the State Board of Education which shall be based, at least in part, on the number of low-income pupils attending the school. The county superintendent will contact schools within the county which meet the criteria and provide information regarding the program.

This program is modeled on the Massachusetts Spread the Word Program which was a recipient of the Council of State Governments' 2000 Innovations Award. The program recognizes the fact that the bookshelves in many homes are overflowing with books that children have outgrown and provides a means of getting these extra books into the hands of young children with few or no books at home. These

books give children the opportunity to develop their reading and writing skills at home with books that are theirs to keep and treasure.

As reported, this bill is identical to S-2232 with Senate committee amendments.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2232

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 13, 2001

The Senate Education Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 2232.

As amended, this bill establishes the Spread the Word Program in the Department of Education. Under the program, donating schools would collect books from children and families who have extra books, and these books would be donated to recipient schools for distribution to children who have few books. The program is targeted to elementary school children in grades kindergarten through five. The program will be county-based and will be administered by the county superintendent of schools.

Prior to the beginning of each school year, the department would send to each elementary school in the State an informational brochure on the program. If a school is interested in participating in the program, the principal would contact the county superintendent.

A donating school will conduct book drives and review any donated books to ensure that they are age-appropriate and in satisfactory condition. The school will count, sort and pack the books and then contact the county superintendent to arrange for the books to be transported to an eligible recipient school. The State will pay for the costs of transporting the donated books. Recipient schools will be chosen based on criteria developed by the State Board of Education which shall be based, at least in part, on the number of low-income pupils attending the school. The county superintendent will contact schools within the county which meet the criteria and provide information regarding the program.

The committee amended the bill to require the Commissioner of Education to assign a person on a part-time basis to serve as the coordinator of the program and provide a \$25,000 appropriation for this purpose.

This program is modeled on the Massachusetts Spread the Word Program which was a recipient of the Council of State Governments' 2000 Innovations Award. The program recognizes the fact that the bookshelves in many homes are overflowing with books that children have outgrown and provides a means of getting these extra books into

the hands of young children with few or no books at home. These books give children the opportunity to develop their reading and writing skills at home with books that are theirs to keep and treasure.

As reported, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 3151 (1R).

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2232

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
209th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 26, 2001

Sponsored by:

Senator DIANE ALLEN

District 7 (Burlington and Camden)

Senator JOHN J. MATHEUSSEN

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

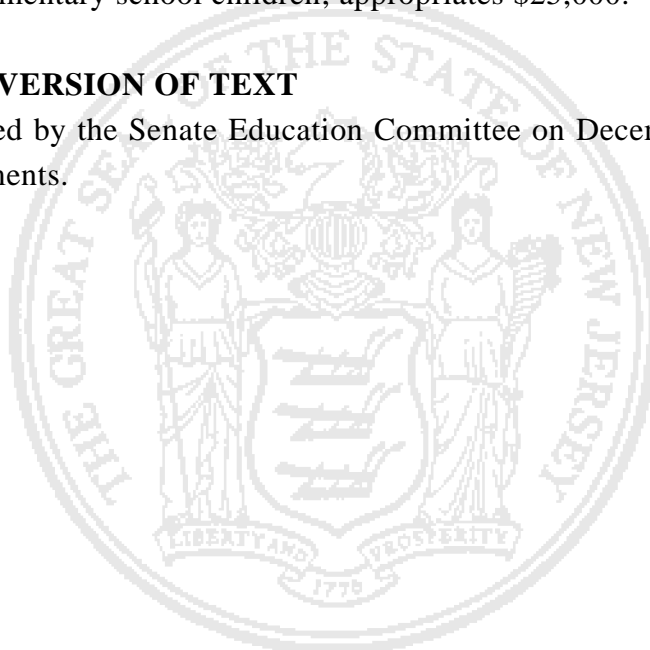
Senators Kavanaugh and Palaia

SYNOPSIS

Establishes the Spread the Word Program in DOE to provide donated books to certain elementary school children; appropriates \$25,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Education Committee on December 13, 2001, with amendments.



1 AN ACT establishing the Spread the Word Program in the Department
2 of Education ¹[and],¹ supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A of the
3 New Jersey Statutes ¹and making an appropriation¹.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. a. There is established the Spread the Word Program in the
9 Department of Education. The purpose of the program is to provide
10 books to elementary school children in grades kindergarten through
11 five. Under the program, donating schools shall collect books from
12 children and families who have extra books at home, and these books
13 shall be donated to recipient schools for distribution to children who
14 have few books at home. The program shall be county-based and shall
15 be administered by the county superintendent of schools.

16 b. Prior to the start of each school year, the department shall send
17 to each elementary school in the State an informational brochure on
18 the program. If the school is interested in participating in the program
19 as a donating school, the principal shall contact the county
20 superintendent of schools to receive further information on program
21 participation.

22 c. A donating school shall conduct book drives. When the drive is
23 finished, the school shall review the donated books to ensure that they
24 are age-appropriate and in satisfactory condition. After the review,
25 the school shall count, sort and pack the books and contact the county
26 superintendent of schools to report the approximate number of books
27 collected and the number of boxes needed to be transported. The
28 county superintendent of schools shall arrange for the books to be
29 transported from the donating school to an eligible recipient school.
30 The State shall assume the costs of transporting the donated books to
31 the recipient school.

32 d. The State Board of Education shall determine criteria for
33 choosing recipient schools which shall be based, at least in part, on the
34 number of low-income pupils attending the school. The county
35 superintendent of schools shall contact schools within the county that
36 meet the criteria and provide information regarding the program. An
37 eligible school that is interested in receiving donated books under the
38 program shall inform the county superintendent of schools.

39 ¹e. The Commissioner of Education shall assign a person on a part-
40 time basis to serve as the coordinator of the program.¹

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Senate SED committee amendments adopted December 13, 2001.

S2232 [1R] ALLEN, MATHEUSSEN

3

1 ¹2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department
2 of Education \$25,000 to effectuate the provisions of subsection e. of
3 section 1 of this act.¹

4

5 ¹[2.] 3.¹ This act shall take effect immediately.

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 3151
(First Reprint)

To the Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section 1, Paragraph 15 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am appending to Assembly Bill No. 3151, at the time of signing it, my statement of the items, or parts thereof, to which I object so that each item, or part thereof, so objected to shall not take effect.

This bill proposes an appropriation of \$25,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Education to assign a staff person on a part-time basis to coordinate the Spread the Word Program. The purpose of the program is to provide books to elementary school children in grades kindergarten through five that have been donated from other schools. Under the bill, schools that wish to participate will conduct book drives and the county superintendents will collect the books and arrange for their transportation from the donating school to an eligible recipient school. The Department of Education will assume the costs of transporting the donated books to the recipient schools.

I commend the sponsors of this bill for their efforts to establish a program to provide donated books to schoolchildren who may have few books at home. The Spread the Word Program is a worthy program that has received National recognition in other states. While I support this program, I believe that the Department of Education should be able to accommodate the cost of assigning a part-time person to coordinate the program with existing funding. As a result, I hereby disapprove the proposed appropriation of \$25,000.

Therefore, I herewith append the following statement of objection to the sum appropriated by this bill:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <u>Page 2, Line 3:</u> | Delete "and making an appropriation." |
| <u>Page 3, Section 2, Lines 1-3:</u> | Delete "There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Education \$25,000 to effectuate the provisions of subsection e. of section 1 of this act." |
| <u>Page 3, Section 3, Line 5:</u> | Delete "3.", insert "2." |

Respectfully,

Donald T. DiFrancesco
President of the Senate, Acting Governor

Attest:

James A. Harkness
Chief Counsel to the Governor

Title 18A.
Chapter 6.
Article 13. (New)
Spread the Word
Program
§1 - C.18A:6-110
§2 - Approp. - LIV

P.L. 2001, CHAPTER 292, *approved December 28, 2001*
Assembly, No. 3151 (*First Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** establishing the Spread the Word Program in the Department
2 of Education ¹**[and]**,¹ supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A of the
3 New Jersey Statutes ²**[and making an appropriation]**² .
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. a. There is established the Spread the Word Program in the
9 Department of Education. The purpose of the program is to provide
10 books to elementary school children in grades kindergarten through
11 five. Under the program, donating schools shall collect books from
12 children and families who have extra books at home, and these books
13 shall be donated to recipient schools for distribution to children who
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16 b. Prior to the start of each school year, the department shall send
17 to each elementary school in the State an informational brochure on
18 the program. If the school is interested in participating in the program
19 as a donating school, the principal shall contact the county
20 superintendent of schools to receive further information on program
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22 c. A donating school shall conduct book drives. When the drive is
23 finished, the school shall review the donated books to ensure that they
24 are age-appropriate and in satisfactory condition. After the review,
25 the school shall count, sort and pack the books and contact the county
26 superintendent of schools to report the approximate number of books
27 collected and the number of boxes needed to be transported. The
28 county superintendent of schools shall arrange for the books to be
29 transported from the donating school to an eligible recipient school.
30 The State shall assume the costs of transporting the donated books to
31 the recipient school.

32 d. The State Board of Education shall determine criteria for
33 choosing recipient schools which shall be based, at least in part, on the
34 number of low-income pupils attending the school. The county

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ **Assembly AED committee amendments adopted May 21, 2001.**

² **Governor's line-item veto changes dated December 28, 2001.**

1 superintendent of schools shall contact schools within the county that
2 meet the criteria and provide information regarding the program. An
3 eligible school that is interested in receiving donated books under the
4 program shall inform the county superintendent of schools.

5 ¹e. The Commissioner of Education shall assign a person on a part-
6 time basis to serve as the coordinator of the program.¹

7

8 ²[2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
9 Department of Education \$25,000 to effectuate the provisions of
10 subsection e. of section 1 of this act.]²

11

12 ¹[2.] 3.¹ This act shall take effect immediately.

13

14

15

16 Establishes the Spread the Word Program in DOE to provide donated
17 books to certain elementary school children; appropriates \$25,000.

CHAPTER 292

AN ACT establishing the Spread the Word Program in the Department of Education, supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes .

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

C.18A:6-110 Spread the Word Program.

1. a. There is established the Spread the Word Program in the Department of Education. The purpose of the program is to provide books to elementary school children in grades kindergarten through five. Under the program, donating schools shall collect books from children and families who have extra books at home, and these books shall be donated to recipient schools for distribution to children who have few books at home. The program shall be county-based and shall be administered by the county superintendent of schools.

b. Prior to the start of each school year, the department shall send to each elementary school in the State an informational brochure on the program. If the school is interested in participating in the program as a donating school, the principal shall contact the county superintendent of schools to receive further information on program participation.

c. A donating school shall conduct book drives. When the drive is finished, the school shall review the donated books to ensure that they are age-appropriate and in satisfactory condition. After the review, the school shall count, sort and pack the books and contact the county superintendent of schools to report the approximate number of books collected and the number of boxes needed to be transported. The county superintendent of schools shall arrange for the books to be transported from the donating school to an eligible recipient school. The State shall assume the costs of transporting the donated books to the recipient school.

d. The State Board of Education shall determine criteria for choosing recipient schools which shall be based, at least in part, on the number of low-income pupils attending the school. The county superintendent of schools shall contact schools within the county that meet the criteria and provide information regarding the program. An eligible school that is interested in receiving donated books under the program shall inform the county superintendent of schools.

e. The Commissioner of Education shall assign a person on a part-time basis to serve as the coordinator of the program.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved December 28, 2001.