

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.F. No. 5232

(SENATE AUTHORS: COLEMAN)

DATE
04/28/2026

D-PG
9199 Introduction and first reading
Referred to Education Policy

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to education; establishing the Minnesota Imagination Library program;
1.3 requiring a report; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota
1.4 Statutes, chapter 124D.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. [124D.145] MINNESOTA IMAGINATION LIBRARY PROGRAM.

1.7 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The Minnesota Imagination Library program is established
1.8 under the Department of Education to provide age-appropriate books to children from birth
1.9 to age five at no cost to families. The program shall be implemented through a partnership
1.10 with the Dollywood Foundation to foster foundational literacy and support the goals of the
1.11 Read Act under sections 120B.118 to 120B.124.

1.12 Subd. 2. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the
1.13 meanings given.

1.14 (b) "Eligible child" means a child from birth to five years of age who is a resident of
1.15 Minnesota.

1.16 (c) "Local affiliate" means a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, school district, or
1.17 public library that has entered into an agreement with the Dollywood Foundation to operate
1.18 the program within a specific geographic area.

1.19 (d) "Statewide entity" means a Minnesota-based nonprofit organization selected by the
1.20 commissioner to coordinate the program statewide.

1.21 Subd. 3. **Commissioner duties.** The commissioner of education must:

1.22 (1) select a statewide entity through a competitive process to coordinate the program;

2.1 (2) provide a state match of 50 percent of the cost of books and mailing for all children
 2.2 enrolled in the program through local affiliates; and

2.3 (3) align program outreach with the department's early literacy initiatives to ensure
 2.4 families are engaged in reading practices before kindergarten entry.

2.5 **Subd. 4. Statewide entity duties.** The selected statewide entity must:

2.6 (1) manage the daily operations of the program and serve as the primary liaison to the
 2.7 Dollywood Foundation;

2.8 (2) assist local affiliates with the 50 percent local match requirement through fundraising
 2.9 and grant-seeking efforts;

2.10 (3) develop and implement a statewide marketing plan to enroll at least 50 percent of
 2.11 eligible children by the end of fiscal year 2029; and

2.12 (4) coordinate with school districts to include Imagination Library enrollment information
 2.13 in early childhood screening appointments.

2.14 **Subd. 5. Local partner requirements.** To receive state matching funding, a local affiliate
 2.15 must:

2.16 (1) enter into an agreement with the Dollywood Foundation;

2.17 (2) provide 50 percent of the funding required for the cost of books and mailing for
 2.18 children in their service area; and

2.19 (3) manage the enrollment of children within the local affiliate's defined geographic
 2.20 boundaries.

2.21 **Subd. 6. Reporting.** By January 15 each year, the commissioner must submit a report
 2.22 to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over education finance and policy on the
 2.23 number of children enrolled per county, the number of books distributed, and an analysis
 2.24 of how the program has impacted kindergarten readiness data.

2.25 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

2.26 **Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION.**

2.27 **Subdivision 1. Department of Education.** The sum indicated in this section is
 2.28 appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of education for the fiscal year
 2.29 designated.

2.30 **Subd. 2. Minnesota Imagination Library.** (a) For the Minnesota Imagination Library
 2.31 program under Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.145:

3.1 § 2027

3.2 (b) This appropriation is available until June 30, 2029.

3.3 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.