

**HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION to promote children's access to books and promote reading achievement.

Smith V

_____ 2000, read first time and referred to Committee on



Introduced

Second Regular Session 111th General Assembly (2000)

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RESOLUTION No. _____**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION to promote children's access to books and promote reading achievement.

Whereas, according to the National Institute for Literacy, more than 40 million Americans age 16 and older read at remedial levels;

Whereas, scores of studies and bodies of research have shown direct links between low literacy and higher probabilities of underemployment, unemployment, poverty, juvenile delinquency, criminal behavior and other social ills;

Whereas, the issues of reading achievement and literacy have acknowledged to be of supreme importance to the African American community because the 3 1998 National Assessment of Education Progress Reading Report Card reflected that there is a reading achievement gap between white and black students showing black children possessing lower scores than their white counterparts;

Whereas, literacy experts agree that in order for children to read and to reach the highest levels of reading achievement they must form a sustained reading habit;

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Whereas, the essential tools required to foster good reading habits and enhance children's reading abilities and achievement are quality books and reading materials;

Whereas, books are often not readily available to children who are most at risk of reading failure as many of our nation's schools, particularly those in low-income areas, do not have sufficient reading materials in classrooms or libraries;

Whereas, many economically disadvantaged children live in homes without books or with few books; and

Whereas, the Commission on Reading found that children who read a lot - and therefore have better reading performance - tend to come from homes and communities where books are easily available. Therefore:

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives
of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,
the Senate concurring:*

- 1 SECTION 1. That the State of Indiana develop policies aimed at
- 2 putting books and other reading materials in the hands of children and
- 3 providing children with exposure to literacy-rich environments in order
- 4 to enable them to learn to read and to encourage reading;
- 5 SECTION 2. That the legislators of the General Assembly work to
- 6 devise means to authorize and appropriate funds for books and other
- 7 reading materials in all reading achievement-related legislation or
- 8 initiatives;
- 9 SECTION 3. That all legislative initiatives concerning reading
- 10 achievement include provisions to develop standards that assure that
- 11 books and other reading materials are available in classrooms, school
- 12 libraries and childcare facilities, in sufficient numbers proportionate to
- 13 the student population, to ensure that reading tools are accessible to all



1 children;

2 SECTION 4. That to help children have access to books at home,
3 funding be provided to support local, non-profit literacy programs that
4 supply free or low-cost books and reading materials to children and
5 their families;

6 SECTION 5. That the Indiana General Assembly calls on all
7 sectors of the community - education, nonprofit, business and
8 government - to work together to ensure that all children, regardless of
9 socio-economic status reach the highest levels of reading achievement.

