

SENATE No. 2330

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

SENATE, Monday, June 13, 2016

The committee on Education, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 261) of Sal N. DiDomenico, Edward F. Coppinger, Thomas J. Calter, Timothy R. Madden and other members of the General Court for legislation to improve literacy skills, reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2330).

For the committee,
Sonia Chang-Diaz

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An Act to improve literacy skills.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 15 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by inserting after Section 52, the following section:-

3 Section 52A. The Board shall establish, subject to appropriation, an elementary school
4 literacy and school improvement reimbursement grant program. Reimbursements shall be given
5 to districts on the basis of improved literacy outcomes for both general education and special
6 education populations. The amount of reimbursement shall be based on a sliding scale to be
7 determined by the department, based on the district's percentage of students categorized as
8 economically disadvantaged. Reimbursements shall be awarded for the following:

9 (a) Intensive school wide literacy coaching and professional development, which may
10 include coaching for broader educational goals. Reimbursements under this category may not
11 continue for a period exceeding four years.

12 (b) K-3 literacy interventions for the most at-risk students. Such grants shall be
13 awarded for intensive literacy intervention training, coaching, and professional development.

14 Reimbursements awarded pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) may be for efforts in
15 conjunction with or separate from each other. Program participants shall be required to report
16 their results to the department, which shall publish the results online.

17 Instructional costs eligible for reimbursement under the program shall be reported by a
18 school or school district to the department in a manner prescribed by the commissioner. The
19 department shall review the report and approve those per pupil instructional costs that are
20 eligible for reimbursement pursuant to the program within 30 days of submission. Based upon
21 the approved costs, the department shall calculate the reimbursement due a municipality.