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H.636

Introduced by Representatives Page of Newport City, Anthony of Barre City,  
Chase of Colchester, Cupoli of Rutland City, Goldman of  
Rockingham, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden,  
Houghton of Essex, Labor of Morgan, Morgan, L. of Milton,  
Morgan, M. of Milton, Mrowicki of Putney, Nicoll of Ludlow,  
Peterson of Clarendon, Rosenquist of Georgia, Seymour of  
Sutton, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Libraries; Department of Libraries; Vermont Imagination Library

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish the  
Vermont Imagination Library for a three-year pilot period and directs the  
Department of Libraries to cooperate with the Dolly Parton Imagination  
Library to provide free books to Vermont children from birth to five years of  
age.

An act relating to establishing the Vermont Imagination Library

1 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

2 Sec. 1. 22 V.S.A. chapter 13 is amended to read:

3 CHAPTER 13. DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES

4 \* \* \*

5 Subchapter 3. Vermont Imagination Library

6 § 651. VERMONT IMAGINATION LIBRARY; PILOT; CREATION

7 (a) Duties of Department. The Department of Libraries shall:

8 (1) coordinate with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL) to  
9 ensure statewide access to the Vermont Imagination Library program;

10 (2) manage the daily operations of the Vermont Imagination Library  
11 program and provide oversight of the Imagination Library Special Fund,  
12 including establishing library-based programs in each county, communicating  
13 with and coordinating any volunteers at local and school libraries, and  
14 advancing and strengthening the program to ensure enrollment growth;

15 (3) develop, promote, and coordinate a public awareness program  
16 to make donors aware of the opportunity to donate to the Imagination  
17 Library Special Fund; and

18 (4) develop, promote, and coordinate a public awareness program  
19 to make the public aware of the opportunity to register children to receive age-  
20 appropriate books on a monthly basis.

1       (b) Consultation with Librarian of Congress. The State Librarian may  
2       consult with the Librarian of Congress concerning the establishment,  
3       implementation, and funding of the Vermont Imagination Library.

4       (c) Eligibility. To receive books on a monthly basis, a child shall be under  
5       five years of age and a resident of Vermont.

6       (d) Administrative costs. The Department is authorized to retain up to five  
7       percent of the funds appropriated to the Imagination Library Special Fund for  
8       administrative and operating expenses related to implementation of the  
9       Vermont Imagination Library program.

10       (e) Matching funds. The Vermont Imagination Library program shall be  
11       funded by 50 percent private funds and 50 percent appropriated funds. The  
12       Department shall include in its annual budget request the estimated need to  
13       fund the Vermont Imagination Library for the following fiscal year.

14       (f) Failure to appropriate funds. If the General Assembly does not  
15       appropriate funds to the Imagination Library Special Fund, the Department of  
16       Libraries shall cease to operate the Vermont Imagination Library and may  
17       rescind any agreements associated with the operation or implementation of the  
18       program.

19       (g) Reports.

20       (1) Annual report. Annually, the Department shall report to the House  
21       and Senate Committees on Education concerning the status of implementing

1 the Vermont Imagination Library. The annual report shall include data on the  
2 number of children enrolled in the program, the growth of the program, and  
3 any feedback received from parents and educators.

4 (2) Repeal of pilot. Every three years, the Department shall include in  
5 its annual report a recommendation on whether the Vermont Imagination  
6 Library should continue to operate or be repealed.

7 § 652. IMAGINATION LIBRARY SPECIAL FUND

8 (a) There is established the Imagination Library Special Fund, which shall  
9 be managed in accordance with 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5. Private  
10 funding for the Vermont Imagination Library shall be deposited and credited to  
11 this Fund. This Fund shall be available to the Department to administer the  
12 Vermont Imagination Library pursuant to section 651 of this subchapter.  
13 Monies in the Fund shall be used solely for purposes of the Fund and for  
14 necessary costs incurred in administering the Fund.

15 (b) The State Librarian may seek and accept gifts, donations, and grants  
16 from any source, public or private, to be dedicated for deposit into the Fund.

17 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION

18 The sum of \$100,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
19 Imagination Library Special Fund in fiscal year 2022 for the purpose of  
20 establishing the Vermont Imagination Library.

1       Sec. 3. REPEAL

2             22 V.S.A. chapter 13, subchapter 3 shall be repealed on July 1, 2025.

3       Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

4             This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.