

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 2565
Version: As introduced

DATE: March 3, 2014

Authors: Newton

Subject: Books 4 Bricks Program

Analyst: Tim Strom

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd/.

Overview

Public library accessibility grants were first authorized by the 1994 Legislature to help communities remove architectural barriers at their public libraries. The program was broadened about a decade later to include other library remodeling projects.

This bill creates a new program called the Books 4 Bricks program and interweaves that program with the library accessibility and improvement grant program. The bill also appropriates \$14 million from the state bond proceeds fund to the Minnesota Department of Education for facility grants to public libraries and an unspecified amount for local matches through the Books 4 Bricks program.

The stated goal of the Books 4 Bricks is to encourage pairs of students in grade 3 and younger and volunteers to meet reading goals and generate money for the local matches for library projects by reaching their reading goals.

Section

- 1 Library accessibility and improvement grants.** Broadens the scope of the library accessibility and improvement grant program to include the Books 4 Bricks program. Authorizes Books 4 Bricks program payments to count as the local match for library projects.
- 2 Books 4 Bricks program.** Establishes the Books 4 Bricks program. Authorizes a school or public library to participate in the Books 4 Bricks reading program. Allows students in third grade and younger and any adult volunteers helping the students with their reading to

Section

participate in the program. Requires the commissioner of education to set reading goals for students at each grade level. Requires each library receiving a grant under this program to commemorate each pair of students and volunteers who meet their reading goals.

- 3 Appropriation; Books 4 Bricks program.** Appropriates an unspecified amount from the state general fund to the commissioner of education to provide for the local match reward for students and volunteers who reach their reading goals.
- 4 Library accessibility and improvement grant program; Books 4 Bricks.** Authorizes the commissioner of management and budget to sell and issue up to \$14 million in state general obligation bonds to fund library accessibility and improvement grants.