

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
NINETY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 326

Introduced by Suttle, 10

Read first time January 8, 2001

Committee: Education

A BILL

- 1 FOR AN ACT relating to education; to adopt the Nebraska Read,
- 2 Educate, and Develop Youth Act.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 5 of this act shall be known
2 and may be cited as the Nebraska Read, Educate, and Develop Youth
3 Act.

4 Sec. 2. (1) The State Department of Education, in
5 cooperation with the Department of Health and Human Services, the
6 Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure,
7 and the Department of Health and Human Services Finance and Support
8 shall develop a packet entitled "Learning Begins at Birth" to be
9 given to the parents of each child born in this state on and after
10 January 1, 2002.

11 (2) The packet shall contain information about the
12 following topics related to child development:

13 (a) A list of the kinds of activities a parent can do
14 with a child to help the child learn;

15 (b) A sample of the kind of appropriate book a parent
16 could read to a child;

17 (c) A child development chart; and

18 (d) A list of enjoyable books for children.

19 The information contained in the packet on these topics shall
20 indicate appropriate information for infants, toddlers, and
21 preschoolers.

22 (3) In addition to the information contained in
23 subsection (2) of this section, the packet shall contain:

24 (a) Information about brain research and healthy
25 development of children;

26 (b) Information on how to obtain a library card;

27 (c) Information about childhood diseases and
28 immunizations needed;

1 (d) Information about the effects of second-hand smoke on
2 children;

3 (e) Information on child care available and how to
4 evaluate good child care;

5 (f) Information about the visual development of children
6 and the relationship between vision and learning;

7 (g) Information about infant hearing screening tests;

8 (h) Information about sudden infant death syndrome; and

9 (i) A list of resources to obtain further information.

10 (4) The State Department of Education shall develop a
11 variety of types of the packet, based on the needs of parents. The
12 information in the packets may be in the form of printed material
13 or in the form of video tapes, audio cassettes, or other
14 appropriate media.

15 Sec. 3. (1) The Department of Health and Human Services,
16 the Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and
17 Licensure, and the Department of Health and Human Services Finance
18 and Support shall assist the State Department of Education in
19 developing the packet and shall develop methods of distributing the
20 packet to parents upon the birth of a child in this state beginning
21 on January 1, 2002.

22 (2) The departments may solicit private financial
23 assistance to carry out their duties under the Nebraska Read,
24 Educate, and Develop Youth Act. The departments shall not endorse
25 any private company or product, but private companies may have
26 their names placed on materials in the packet to help underwrite
27 the costs of developing and distributing the packets.

28 Sec. 4. The READY Fund is created. The fund shall

1 contain money received from private sources to underwrite the costs
2 of the Nebraska Read, Educate, and Develop Youth Act. The fund
3 shall be used by the State Department of Education, the Department
4 of Health and Human Services, the Department of Health and Human
5 Services Regulation and Licensure, and the Department of Health and
6 Human Services Finance and Support to aid in carrying out their
7 duties under the act. The fund shall be administered by the
8 Department of Health and Human Services Finance and Support. Any
9 money in the fund available for investment may be invested by the
10 state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion
11 Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

12 Sec. 5. The State Department of Education, the
13 Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Health
14 and Human Services Regulation and Licensure, and the Department of
15 Health and Human Services Finance and Support shall annually report
16 to the Legislature and the Governor regarding the actions,
17 activities, accomplishments, and shortcomings in carrying out the
18 Nebraska Read, Educate, and Develop Youth Act.