

SENATE NO. 274

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF EARLY LITERACY SKILLS FOR AT RISK CHILDREN

*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. Section 1I of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting before the first paragraph the following paragraph:-
3 For the purpose of this section the following words shall have the following meaning:-
4 "Reading Recovery", a one to one, scientific research-based, short term (12-20 weeks), pre
5 referral early literacy intervention delivered by a certified Reading Recovery teacher to children
6 at risk of failing to learn to read and write in first grade. Children are selected for service based
7 on performance in six literacy assessments published in Clay's An Observation Survey of Early
8 Literacy Achievement. Reading Recovery teachers must be certified as having completed a
9 year long accredited university based Reading Recovery program.

10 SECTION 2. Said section 1I of said chapter 69 is hereby further amended by inserting after
11 subsection (h) in line 209 the following subsections:-

12 (i) the number of children receiving special education referrals in first and second grades
13 because of difficulty in reading.

14 (j) the number of children referred to Reading Recovery.

15 (k) the number of children receiving special education referrals because of difficulty reading
16 after successfully completing Reading Recovery.

17 SECTION 3. Section 38Q of said chapter 71 is hereby amended by inserting before the first
18 paragraph the following paragraph:-

19 For the purpose of this section the following words shall have the following meaning:-

20 "Reading Recovery", a one to one, scientific research-based, short term (12-20 weeks), pre
21 referral early literacy intervention delivered by a certified Reading Recovery teacher to children
22 at risk of failing to learn to read and write in first grade. Children are selected for service based
23 on performance in six literacy assessments published in Clay's An Observation Survey of Early
24 Literacy Achievement. Reading Recovery teachers must be certified as having completed a
25 year long accredited university based Reading Recovery program.

26 SECTION 4. Said section 38Q is hereby further amended by striking out in lines 15 and 16 the
27 words "The plan may also include training in the provision of pre-referral services within
28 regular education", and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- "The plan shall also
29 include training of teachers, in an approved Reading Recovery Training Site, in the provision of
30 Reading Recovery as a research-based, pre-referral service for first grade students."

31 SECTION 5. Section 38Q1/2 of said chapter 71 is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof
32 the following sentence:- "The plan shall include the provisions for the implementation of
33 Reading Recovery."

34 SECTION 6. Section 5A of chapter 71B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official
35 Edition, is hereby amended in line 18, by inserting after the word "chapter" the following

36 words:- "and for the eligible instructional costs associated with the implementation of Reading
37 Recovery."

38 SECTION 7. Section 5B of said chapter 71B is hereby amended after subsection (f) by
39 inserting the following subsection:-

40 School districts shall be reimbursed 50 per cent of the cost of teachers' salaries and benefits for
41 Reading Recovery teachers and teacher leaders. The reimbursement program shall in not alter
42 the seniority status, pay scale, retirement eligibility, or any other compensation or benefit to
43 which existing teachers are currently entitled.