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6 Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie

Councilmember Yvette Alexander

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10 Councilmember Brianne Nadeau

Councilmember Anita Bonds

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14 Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

Councilmember Elissa Silverman

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18 Councilmember Vincent B. Orange, Sr.

Councilmember Jack Evans

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22 Councilmember David Grosso

25 A BILL

28 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

31 To amend An Act To establish and provide for the maintenance of a free public library and
32 reading room in the District of Columbia to establish the Books from Birth program to
33 provide monthly books to all registered children from birth to 5 years of age, establish a
34 Book Selection Committee, and establish the Books from Birth Fund.

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36 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
37 act may be cited as the “Books from Birth Establishment Amendment Act of 2015”.

38 Sec. 2. An Act To establish and provide for the maintenance of a free public library and
39 reading room in the District of Columbia, approved June 3, 1896 (29 Stat. 244; D.C. Official
40 Code § 39-101 *et seq.*), is amended by adding new sections 15 through 17 to read as follows:

41 “Sec. 15. Books from Birth.

42 “(a) There is established the Books from Birth program as a program of the District of
43 Columbia Public Library (“DCPL”), to be administered by the Executive Director of DCPL.

44 “(b) The Books from Birth program shall provide books to all registered children, mailed
45 to the home residence of the child at the rate of one per month, from the month following the
46 child’s birth or enrollment in the program to the child’s 5th birthday.

47 “(c)(1) The Executive Director shall make reasonable efforts to register every child under
48 the age of 5 residing in the District.

49 “(2) The Executive Director shall be authorized to enter into such memoranda of
50 agreement or understanding with the Department of Health, area hospitals, or other entities as
51 necessary to ensure each family receives registration information upon the child’s birth.

52 “(3) The registration list shall be used solely for activities related to the Books
53 from Birth program and shall not be sold or used for any other purpose.

54 “(d) The Executive Director may include information about library programs and
55 services, including those related to children, adult, or family literacy, or other educational or
56 literacy material as the agency deems useful with materials delivered each month.

57 “(e) The Executive Director shall choose the monthly book titles from recommendations
58 provided by the Book Selection Committee established in section 16.

59 “(f) The Executive Director may enter into such contractual and promotional agreements
60 necessary to effectively implement the Books from Birth program.

61 “Sec. 16. Book Selection Committee.

62 “(a) The Executive Director shall establish a Book Selection Committee (“Committee”)
63 composed of experts in early literacy for the purpose of providing recommendations of book
64 titles to be distributed for each age group.

65 “(b)(1) The Executive Director shall establish membership criteria including length and
66 terms of membership and selection process.

67 (2) Members shall serve without compensation.

68 “(c) The Executive Director shall post on the DCPL website:

69 “(1) The process for selecting members of the Committee;

70 “(2) Protocol for the operation of the Committee, including membership,
71 organization, and meeting frequency; and

72 “(3) Guidelines for book title selection, including age-appropriate concepts and
73 diversity of characters, culture, and authors.

74 “Sec. 17. Books from Birth Fund.

75 “(a) There is established as a special fund the Books from Birth Fund (“Fund”), which
76 shall be administered by the Board in accordance with subsections (c) and (d) of this section.

77 “(b) Revenue from the following sources shall be deposited in the Fund:

78 “(1) Funds appropriated by the District;

79 “(2) Donations from the public;

80 “(3) Donations from private entities; and

81 “(4) Funds provided through a sponsorship agreement.

82 “(c) Money in the Fund shall be used to implement and promote the Books from Birth
83 program, including:

84 “(1) Purchasing books for the Books from Birth program;
85 “(2) Handling and delivery costs;
86 “(3) Promotional costs; and
87 “(4) Appropriate overhead or administrative expenses related to the Books from
88 Birth program and the Fund.

89 “(d)(1) The money deposited into the Fund, and interest earned, shall not revert to the
90 unrestricted fund balance of the General Fund of the District of Columbia at the end of a fiscal
91 year, or at any other time.

92 “(2) Subject to authorization in an approved budget and financial plan, any funds
93 appropriated in the Fund shall be continually available without regard to fiscal year limitation.”.

94 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

95 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
96 impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act,
97 approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

98 Sec. 4. Effective date.

99 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
100 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
101 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
102 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
103 Columbia Register.