

House passes reading proficiency bill

BOSTON – State Rep. Nicholas A. Boldyga, R-Southwick, joined his colleagues in voting to unanimously pass An Act Relative to Third Grade Reading Proficiency. The bill will create an Early Literacy Panel that will advise state education agencies on best practices to improve the language and reading skills of children. The legislation will also implement new curriculum standards, testing requirements and teacher development training programs for early-childhood educators.

“As a parent, I’m focused on ensuring our children have the foundation for an excellent education. This bill will ensure that our children have the tools to succeed throughout their academic careers,” said Boldyga.

According to the group Early Education for All, nearly 40 percent of third graders in Massachusetts read below grade level and 74 percent of children who read poorly in third grade will struggle to keep up with their classmates. This creates a situation that stunts the educational development of each child that falls behind in the classroom.

In order to create a curriculum that will improve the quality of early education in public schools throughout the Commonwealth, the legislation seeks to strengthen the implementation of literacy programs in public schools across the state by requiring the expert panel to advise the Department of Early Education and Care, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Department of Higher Education on aligning and coordinating current initiatives.

The bill now goes to the State Senate for approval.

