

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.  
Act 1088 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas  
92nd General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2019

As Engrossed: S4/4/19  
**A Bill**

SENATE BILL 664

By: Senator Elliott

By: Representative Scott

### **For An Act To Be Entitled**

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS CORRECTIONAL SCHOOL,  
THE SCIENCE OF READING, AND DYSLEXIA SCREENING AND  
INTERVENTION SERVICES; TO REQUIRE A NEWLY COMMITTED  
INMATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION TO UNDERGO A  
READING ASSESSMENT AND DYSLEXIA SCREENING DURING THE  
INTAKE PROCESS; TO REQUIRE THAT INMATES WHO READ  
BELOW THE REQUIRED PROFICIENCY LEVEL OR DEMONSTRATE  
MARKERS OF DYSLEXIA BE PROVIDED WITH APPROPRIATE  
INTERVENTION SERVICES; TO REQUIRE THAT CURRENT  
INMATES RECEIVE INFORMATION REGARDING DYSLEXIA AND  
DYSLEXIA INTERVENTION SERVICES; TO REQUIRE THAT AN  
INDIVIDUAL WHO TEACHES AT A SCHOOL WITHIN THE  
CORRECTIONS SCHOOL SYSTEM DEMONSTRATE PROFICIENCY AND  
AWARENESS OF THE BEST PRACTICES OF SCIENCE-BASED  
READING INSTRUCTION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### **Subtitle**

*TO REQUIRE THAT NEW INMATES RECEIVE  
READING ASSESSMENTS AND DYSLEXIA  
SCREENINGS; TO REQUIRE READING AND  
DYSLEXIA SERVICES; AND TO REQUIRE  
CORRECTIONS TEACHERS KNOW BEST PRACTICES  
OF SCIENCE-BASED READING INSTRUCTION.*

*BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:*



SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative intent.

The General Assembly finds that:

- (1) Individuals undergo a process known as "intake" when entering the Department of Correction system as a new inmate;
- (2) The intake process for new inmates can take at least three (3) to five (5) days, and sometimes longer in certain situations;
- (3) During intake, inmates are given an academic examination amongst other relevant examinations;
- (4) The inmate population of the department is approximately eighteen thousand (18,000);
- (5) The mission of the department is to:
  - (A) Protect public safety by carrying out the mandate of the courts;
  - (B) Provide a safe and humane environment for all staff members and inmates;
  - (C) Strengthen the work ethic of inmates through teaching and instilling good habits; and
  - (D) Provide opportunities for staff members and inmates to improve spiritually, mentally, and physically; and
- (6) Part of the mission and vision of the department is to provide correctional services that return inmates to the community as productive people.

SECTION 2. *Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 29, Subchapter 3, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:*

12-29-311. Dyslexia screening – Science of reading – Intervention services.

The superintendent of the Arkansas Correctional School shall:

- (1) Promulgate rules that require:
  - (A) Teachers within the Arkansas Correctional School to have and demonstrate awareness of the best practices of scientific reading instruction as required under the Right to Read Act, § 6-17-429;
  - (B) Each inmate who does not have a high school diploma or its equivalent receive:
    - (i) A reading proficiency-level assessment; and
    - (ii)(a) Dyslexia screening administered with

fidelity, as defined under § 6-41-602.

(b) If the Arkansas Correctional School provides dyslexia intervention to an inmate who demonstrates under subdivision (1)(B)(ii)(a) of this section that the inmate is reading below the proficiency level required to be a high-functioning reader, the dyslexia intervention the Arkansas Correctional School provides shall be evidence-based and consistent with science-based research specifically tailored to addressing dyslexia; and

(C) A process be established by which new-intake inmates are:

(i) Assessed and administered a dyslexia screening with fidelity, as defined under § 6-41-602; and

(ii) Provided dyslexia intervention with fidelity, as defined under § 6-41-602, that is evidence-based and consistent with science-based research specifically tailored to addressing dyslexia; and

(2) Submit a plan to the Department of Correction that allows inmates to voluntarily receive:

(A) A reading proficiency-level assessment;

(B) Dyslexia screening administered with fidelity, as defined under § 6-41-602; and

(C) Reading instruction that is consistent with the science of reading, as provided under the Right to Read Act, § 6-17-429.

**SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. Temporary language.**

(a) The superintendent of the Arkansas Correctional School shall comply with:

(1) Section 12-29-311(1) by January 1, 2020; and

(2) Section 12-29-311(2) by October 1, 2020.

(b)(1) When adopting the initial rules to implement § 12-29-311, the final rule shall be filed with the Secretary of State for adoption under § 25-15-204(f):

(A) On or before January 1, 2020; or

(B) If approval under § 10-3-309 has not occurred by January 1, 2020, as soon as practicable after approval under § 10-3-309.

(2) The superintendent of the Arkansas Correctional School shall file the proposed rule with the Legislative Council under § 10-3-309(c)

sufficiently in advance of January 1, 2020, so that the Legislative Council may consider the rule for approval before January 1, 2020.

/s/Elliott

**APPROVED: 4/17/19**