

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2011-164

2 State of Arkansas
3 88th General Assembly
4 Regular Session, 2011

A Bill

SENATE BILL 749

5
6 By: Senator Elliott

7 Filed with: Interim Senate Committee on Education
8 pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

For An Act To Be Entitled

9
10 AN ACT TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN WITH DYSLEXIA HAVE
11 THEIR NEEDS MET BY THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM; AND FOR
12 OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

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14
15 TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN WITH DYSLEXIA
16 HAVE THEIR NEEDS MET BY THE PUBLIC SCHOOL
17 SYSTEM.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 41, Subchapter 1 is amended
24 to add additional sections to read as follows:

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26 6-41-105. Screening and treatment for dyslexia and related disorders.

27 (a) As used in this section:

28 (1) "Dyslexia" means a disorder of constitutional origin
29 manifested by a difficulty in learning to read, write, or spell despite
30 conventional instruction, adequate intelligence, and social opportunity; and

31 (2) "Related disorders" means disorders similar to or related to
32 dyslexia, including without limitation developmental auditory imperception,
33 dysphasia, specific developmental dyslexia, developmental dysgraphia, and
34 developmental spelling disability.

35 (b) In accordance with a program approved by the State Board of
36 Education, a public school in this state shall test through use of reading

1 instruments each of its students in kindergarten through grade two (K-2) for
2 dyslexia and related disorders.

3 (c) The superintendent of each school district shall report in
4 writing:

5 (1) To the state board, the school district-wide results of the
6 reading instruments; and

7 (2) To the student's parent or guardian, the individual
8 student's results of the reading instruments.

9 (d) The state board shall provide for the treatment of any student
10 determined to have dyslexia or a related disorder.

11 (e) The state board may adopt rules necessary to administer this
12 section.

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14 6-41-106. Reading instruments for dyslexia and related disorders.

15 (a) The State Board of Education shall develop recommendations for
16 school districts to:

17 (1) Administer reading instruments designed to diagnose student
18 reading development and comprehension;

19 (2) Train educators in administering the reading instruments;
20 and

21 (3) Apply the results of the reading instruments to the
22 instructional program.

23 (b)(1)(A) The state board shall adopt a list of reading instruments
24 that a school district may use to diagnose student reading development and
25 comprehension.

26 (B) A school district may adopt a list of reading
27 instruments for use in the school district in addition to the reading
28 instruments on the state board's list.

29 (2) Each reading instrument adopted by the state board or a
30 school district shall:

31 (A) Be based on scientific research concerning reading
32 skills development and reading comprehension; and

33 (B) Provide for diagnosing the reading development and
34 comprehension of a student participating in a specialized reading program.

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36 6-41-107. Dyslexia and related disorder programs in school districts.

1 (a) A school district shall:

2 (1) Notify a student's parent or guardian, in English or in the
3 parent or guardian's native language, in writing by regular mail:

4 (A) Before an identification or assessment procedure is
5 used with the individual student; and

6 (B) Of all services and options available to the student
7 under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 504, if the student is eligible;

8 (2) Implement strategies approved by the State Board of
9 Education for screening and techniques for treating dyslexia and related
10 disorders; and

11 (3) Purchase or develop a reading program for students with
12 dyslexia and related disorders approved by the state board.

13 (b) A teacher who screens and treats students with dyslexia and
14 related disorders shall be trained in instructional strategies that utilize
15 individualized, intensive, multisensory, phonetic methods, and a variety of
16 writing and spelling techniques.

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19 Referred by the Arkansas Senate

20 Prepared by: SAG/VJF

